

Share this:



Like 0



UFT nuzlædæ

Speech Improvement

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Comments from Caroline

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. By October, summer may seem like the distant past but it was only a few weeks ago! I hope you had some time to relax and energize yourself.

The Speech Chapter welcomes our new members. We now have approximately 4,000 speech teachers and speech language pathologists and we hope to see as many of you as possible at our monthly UFT meetings.

Caroline Murphy

Most of the meetings are held at UFT central headquarters in Manhattan, but I hold meetings at the other four UFT borough offices throughout the year. You are welcome to attend as many as you like. We welcome participants.

I also invite our new members to the chapter's Speech Survival Class, a professional development opportunity available only to UFT members. I will send you information about the locations and dates in the near future so stay tuned! Our Speech Survival Class provides valuable information about your profession and working in the NYC public schools; it's a safe space for you to ask questions and gives you the opportunity to meet your fellow UFT members.

Another valuable resource we offer is our telephone hotline. Call us with questions or concerns at 212-598-7774, Monday through Friday, from 4 to 6 p.m. Please leave a short, concise message and we will return your call. You may also email us at speechchapterleader@uft.org. DO NOT USE a DOE email for correspondence. Before you call, you may want to search the [UFT website](#) and our chapter's pages where previous newsletters and other important chapter information are available.

Looking ahead, the Speech Chapter will fight for your rights as we have always done as well as work with the DOE to solve workplace issues that arise. We will continue our meetings with the DOE Labor Management Committee to discuss SESIS, the blended model and creating time for parent engagement. We will continue to have monthly consultations with the DOE to address concerns and resolve issues. Your Speech Chapter is here to help and support all of you.

We are fortunate to have a strong Speech Chapter community. We have elected executive board members and volunteer liaisons in all of the districts to make sure your needs are addressed. (If you are interested in becoming a liaison, please contact us.)

I hope to see you at our next chapter meeting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at UFT headquarters, 52 Broadway, Manhattan. Please register using our [online form](#).

In Unity,

Caroline Murphy
UFT Speech Chapter Leader

Highlights of 2018-19

Last year was my first year as your chapter leader and it was an eventful one. We accomplished a lot together.

Share this:



Like 0

new members. I continue to look forward to this event every year to help our chapter grow.

- **Teacher Union Day:** Sixteen of us attended the UFT's annual Teacher Union Day celebration honoring UFT founders and leaders as well as current ones. The UFT honored our past chapter liaison and former UFT Vice President of Special Education Carmen Alvarez.
- **Speech Survival Class:** A six-week course every fall that helps new members survive their first year in the NYC public schools as well as understand their rights and benefits under the DOE-UFT contract. Members learn about their roles and responsibilities, SESIS, the Standard Operating Procedures Manual, the UFT website, pension benefits, Injury in the Line of Duty (ILOD), Chancellor's regulations, leaves and sabbaticals. There were three sections of this course offered in Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn to accommodate members.
- **Functional Speech Chapter Weekend:** We had 30 Speech Chapter members join other functional chapter members to learn about the 2018 contract, how to organize members and how to help colleagues feel empowered. We also collected toiletries to donate to several organizations that provide for those less fortunate than ourselves.
- **Better Speech and Hearing Month Celebration:** This celebration is one of my favorite chapter events. Created by former Chapter Leader Mindy Karten Bornemann, BSHM gives members a chance to create projects with their students and submit them for awards. The BSHM Committee selects winners and holds a well-attended spring awards ceremony.
- Throughout the year, I visited district speech meetings. Last year, I visited Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 19, 23, 75 and 79 to make announcements and answer questions. I will continue to visit your district meetings this year. Let me know if you'd like me to speak at yours! Contact me at speechchapterleader@uft.org.



The Speech Chapter has an ongoing campaign to collect toiletries to donate to several organizations providing for the less fortunate. Above, chapter members collected toiletries at last school year's UFT functional chapter weekend.

Top concern from the Speech Chapter hotline

Signing in and out: Last spring, the DOE and the UFT agreed related service providers may move a student's name/picture on a board, also known as the "parking lot." No signatures or times are required on this board. Times are recorded in SESIS.

Seniority rules

From the contract: Article 7 Speech Improvement Teachers:

3. Selection and Retention of Assignments

- b. Where there are more than two speech improvement teachers in a school, the senior teacher will be given preference unless the appropriate Board of Education official can demonstrate there are compelling reasons for the denial. Teachers returning from sabbaticals or leaves of absence of less than two years will be returned to the schools where they were assigned in accordance with their seniority. All reasons for denial of the teacher of speech improvement's preference will be done in writing.

From the contract: Article 7, Citywide Special Education, D75

Share this:

Like 0

a. If staffing needs within the cluster school require contracting the staff at one site and expanding staff at another site, the Board will first seek volunteers who wish to transfer from the contracting site to the expanding site. The senior qualified volunteer, based on excessing seniority, shall be selected. If no qualified volunteer exists, the Board will transfer the junior teacher, based on excessing seniority, who qualifies for the position.

License reimbursement checklist

Make sure you enter your new renewal date into NYCAPS, the New York City Automated Personnel System. You will receive your reimbursement approximately between six and eight months from the renewal date during one of the payout cycles — months to be determined.

Make sure you renew your Medicaid number every five years.

How to resolve space issues

If you have too little space in your room, or an inappropriate space in a hallway or closet, contact your building chapter leader to discuss how the issue can be resolved. In the 2018 contract, the UFT negotiated the formation of an operational committee, which allows the chapter leader to file an operational complaint about space, caseload, curriculum, safety and supplies. The Speech Chapter successfully resolved several issues through the operational process last spring.

Miscellaneous news you can use

Per session hours: Members are entitled to 10 hours if their caseload is 30 or below and 20 hours if their caseload is 31 or higher. The DOE will check SESIS in February or March to determine caseload size. Make every effort to submit your time sheets/cards to your payroll secretary as early as possible. If your payroll secretary is having difficulty submitting the time sheets, please contact your speech supervisor. If this remains unresolved, please email or call the Speech Chapter hotline at 212-598-7774.

Prep as a shortage area: Members have a choice to work prep as a shortage area if there are students unserved in your school. You must submit a schedule to your speech supervisor and wait for approval before beginning to provide services during this time.

Speech Chapter dates for 2019-20

- The following events take place at UFT headquarters, 52 Broadway, Manhattan. Registration information will be sent to you.
- Speech Chapter meetings, 4 to 6 p.m.
 - Oct. 30, Nov.13, Dec. 18, Feb 5, March 11, April 29, May 20, June 10
 - UFT Speech Chapter Tenure meeting, Jan 8, 4 to 6 p.m.
 - Better Speech and Hearing Celebration, May 5, 2020



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

DOE members: 212-331-6311 • DOE functional chapter members: 212-331-6312 • Private sector members: 212-331-6313 • Retirees: 212-331-6314 • UFT Welfare Fund (health benefits): 212-539-0500 | UFT.org

is currently subscribed to the UFT email list. If you would like to stop receiving emails from the UFT, you can unsubscribe at any time. Please do not REPLY to this email. To contact a union representative, please visit Contact Us on the UFT website.

[UPDATE YOUR PREFERENCES](#)
[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)