

District 75 News



David Doorga

To my District 75 family,

As we wind down the year, I would like to thank every single member of my District 75 family. Educators and working families are under attack by wealthy special interest groups throughout the United States, and we are challenged by a frankly disturbing political climate.

However, we, United Federation of Teachers members, continue to persevere and fight for not only the rights of our students, but the rights of our entire school community. The UFT, led by President Michael Mulgrew, is battling to maintain our dignity and demand respect by keeping true to the idea that we are, indeed, a union of professionals, and will not tolerate our rights stripped from us or exploitation by management. We have fought too hard and too long to go back to the bad, old days before we had a union and representation.

Please always keep in mind that we are a family, working together with a shared goal of improving the lives of the neediest students in the entire city, who are also the most rewarding to teach.

I would particularly like to thank my hard-working chapter leaders, who are constantly going above and beyond the call of duty to serve our UFT family. Additionally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to those chapter leaders who have completed their terms of service and to those who have retired. Your dedication to our union and your UFT staff members is deeply and sincerely appreciated. On behalf of all D75 UFT members and our District 75 students, thank you.

Although it seems as if every news report contains more and more disturbing information, we must keep in mind that the UFT continues to fight and win victories. Some of these crucial wins include:

1. Paid parental leave, which was announced on June 20 at a press conference with UFT President Michael Mulgrew and Mayor Bill de Blasio. [Read the *New York Teacher* story](#) on the UFT's website.
2. Our 22-8-5 arbitration win, spearheaded by Chapter Leader Freddie Cole of P. 754, Bronx;
3. Gaining two full days of orientation for Chapter 683;
4. Battling the practice of first period mass preps which violate the students' IEP mandates;
5. Having AFT delegates participate during Chapter 683;
6. Speech providers regained the contractual right to work eight sessions instead of nine during Chapter 683; and
7. Ensuring that contractual rights such as time off for jury duty and bereavement, and health benefits such as prostate screenings and mammograms remain available.

I will see many of you working Chapter 683 throughout the city this summer. For everyone else, I wish you a happy, safe and relaxing break. Enjoy every moment because before you know it, academic year 2018-19 will be here.

Stay strong. Stay united. We are One. E pluribus unum! As always, I am very honored to serve as your District Representative.

Yours in solidarity,

David Doorga
District 75 Representative

New mural outside 751M gives students 'voice'



Students and staff play the percussive instrument portion of the mural at the conclusion of the ceremony at the Manhattan School for Career Development, Manhattan.

There's a new mural outside the Manhattan School for Career Development aka 751M, in the East Village staff members say captures the diversity, individuality and love of the nearly 60 students who created it. Students with special needs and LGBTQ students embraced the opportunity to express themselves in the mural, an imposing 25 feet high and 160 feet long.

Students from 751M, and the neighboring Harvey Milk HS, gathered outside 751M on May 7 to celebrate their colorful art project, created in only three weeks with the help of Artolution, a community-based public art organization with a social justice focus, and the law firm Paul Hastings LLP, which helped finance the mixed media project.

[See more photos in the gallery »](#)

[Read the *New York Teacher* story »](#)

Summer 2018/Chapter 683 payroll schedule

Pay period: 7/2 through 7/13

Check distribution: 7/17

Number of hours: 60

Number of days: 10

Pay period: 7/14 through 7/27

Check distribution: 7/26

Number of hours: 60

Number of days: 10

Pay period: 7/28 through 8/14

Check distribution: 8/14

Number of hours: 72

Number of days: 12

For Baby Boomers and Gen Xers: Those Who Aspire to Retire

Even though you may be quite literally counting the days until you can retire, keep in mind preparing for the next act of your life can be a difficult transition. The UFT provides an incredible amount of help and guidance with financial planning, as well as options to secure your financial future, such as the Tax-Deferred Annuity. But your emotional well-being also matters. Here are some things you need to consider regarding your individual needs and dreams when you decide to hand in your papers.

Careers, particularly in District 75, offer three things which can be hard to replicate in retirement.

First and foremost, working in District 75 offers a sense of contributing and being acknowledged for your contribution. Our hard work and dedication is appreciated by our students, their parents and fellow UFT members. We are devoted to making the world a better place, whether at school or in our communities.

How will you continue to contribute to society when you retire? Will you volunteer in your neighborhood? Find a part-time tutoring job? Become an activist with the UFT Retired Teachers Chapter, advocating for union members and working families?

Second, our friendships with co-workers are essential parts of our daily school routines. Loneliness in retirement is real! It can create serious consequences to your mental and physical health. The solution is to be proactive. Schedule regular activities with friends, and keep in mind that maintaining friendships requires effort. When you work, you see your friends every day. When you retire, you have to make an effort to stay in touch. All relationships need to be cultivated. Remember: True friends make time for each other, and old friends are often the best friends.

Third, working in District 75 provides scheduled routines that keep us running around from early morning until we finally leave our work sites. We're just too busy to be bored! In retirement, however, many people are at loose ends.

Start thinking about what your ideal life looks like. Maybe you want to wake up at early in the morning and go to the gym. Maybe you want to take a run with a buddy or a group of friends. You might want to audit a class or two, volunteer at a local animal shelter or practice with your jazz trio. You can do it all, but first, you have to know what you want to do.

Don't forget: UFT member Frank McCourt won the Pulitzer Prize for his memoir, *Angela's Ashes*, which he published at age 66, after a career spent teaching in the city's high schools. Start thinking now about how you will make sure that your next phase of life is great!

Prepare your classroom for an extended stay

Is your classroom prepared if you had to stay there with your students for an extended amount of time? School violence, or the threat of school violence, has caused many a teacher into a once unimaginable position. We've all read about students and teachers holed up for hours while they wait for help.

But many different reasons may cause us to have to spend an extended amount of time in the classroom. Snowstorms, thunderstorms, power outages, a citywide emergency — we have no control over those events, but we can be prepared.

Think about it this way: You probably have either home or renter's insurance in case anything goes wrong with your home. You have car insurance in case anything goes wrong with your vehicle. What have you put in place in case anything goes wrong at work?

You may want to discuss this possibility with the classroom staff and have a conversation about the items you'd need in your room for several hours, or even overnight. Do you have a flashlight? Do you have bottles of water and snacks that don't require refrigeration? (Keep snacks in a sealed container so that they don't attract pests.) How about diapers for students who are not toilet trained, extra clothing, and personal protective equipment, like wipes and gloves? Consider keeping a spare cellphone charger and an extra charged battery on hand. Simply putting a few essential items in a plastic box and keeping it in a closet could make an enormous difference in keeping your students calm.

Of course, every classroom needs a list of emergency contact telephone numbers in an emergency folder, and these number should be updated routinely.

I sincerely hope that none of us in District 75 will ever be in a crisis lockdown situation, and that we drill with our students but never use our knowledge, but it is always best to prepare for every possible scenario.

Not too early to register for the Labor Day Parade

Join us at the Labor Day Parade on Sept. 8. This year, because of the expected fallout from the Janus v. AFSCME decision, it's more important than ever that we turn out in force at New York City's Labor Day Parade to show that we are still #UnionProud.

This year, the UFT contingent will lead the parade, and UFT President Michael Mulgrew will serve as the parade's grand marshal. Please organize a group from your chapter to celebrate labor solidarity. After the parade, the union will hold a special event for UFT members and their families.

[Sign up to march in the parade](#) — we want to show the world that New York City is a union town! We hope to see you there!

Salary and personnel

Keep Electronic Funds Transfer accounts open during the summer. Members who participate in the EFT direct deposit program should not close accounts scheduled to receive June, July or August checks.

If a check is returned because an account has been closed, a supplemental paper check will be issued only after the paycheck is returned to the DOE from the bank. If a check is lost, stolen or mutilated, a stop payment must be placed on the check. The DOE will then mail an affidavit that must be returned before a replacement check is issued. This can take up to six weeks.

To request an affidavit, pedagogues may call 718-935-2217 and paraprofessionals may call HR Connect at 718-935-4000 or their DOE borough field office. Please be advised that in both scenarios, no emergency checks can be issued by the DOE.

Use your personal email for all union business

DO NOT use your DOE email address to contact a UFT rep or conduct union business. To do so is a violation of the DOE's Internet policy. All email correspondence about grievances and other union activities should be conducted using a non-DOE personal email address.

In the event you are arrested

If you are arrested for any reason, even for civil disobedience and even if it happens out of state, you must immediately contact the Office of Personnel Investigations: call 718-935-2666 or email OPArrestnotification@schools.nyc.gov. You also must notify your principal. If you are arrested on school property and/or for anything related to your job, please immediately contact your district representative.

Paraprofessionals gained several new protections in 2016 as a result of the UFT's union-initiated grievance that challenged the unfairness of automatic suspensions for paraprofessionals who have been arrested. Under a Department of Education policy issued on March 22, 2016, paraprofessionals arrested on the job or on their own time, now have a new review procedure to determine if a suspension without pay is warranted. For more details about the policy, [read the New York Teacher article](#).

Send me your feedback about this newsletter

As your district representative, I hope to communicate with you often about topics that are of help and interest to you. Please [fill out this online form](#) to let me know what you found most valuable in this newsletter and how I can improve it.

Be sure to visit our [District 75 UFT Facebook](#) group! You can tell us about the great things happening in your District 75 school community.

Stay in touch!

For news alerts and important information about your rights and benefits as a UFT member, [sign up on the UFT website](#), opt in for [text messaging](#), "like" the [UFT on Facebook](#), follow the [UFT on Twitter](#) and read the [New York Teacher](#).