



District 75 News



David Doorga

To my District 75 family,

As I travel to District 75 schools throughout the city, from P 168 in the north Bronx to the Hungerford School on Staten Island, I see how you, as individuals, make a difference every day to the children you serve.

The week of May 7-11 was Teacher Appreciation Week, which, fittingly, culminated in Mother's Day on Sunday. I frequently say that District 75 people view their work as so much more than a job; this line of work is truly a vocation. It takes a unique individual to selflessly give so much to children who are struggling with the difficult challenges life has thrown at them. Knowing that you make a real difference, one child at a time, and create a better world is why you are proud to work for District 75. Sure, it's nice to hear "thanks" occasionally, but that's not why you do what you do.

A first read word, watching a child connect with another human being, a first song sung — that's what you're really in it for.

In fighting for your rights and a safe, productive workplace, I remain inspired by your tireless dedication as I represent each and every one of you. I can't thank you enough for your commitment, not only to our students but also to each other through the UFT. By standing together, we can protect the values that make District 75 great!

I sincerely thank you for all your hard work. Stay strong, stay united. We are one.

As always, I am honored to serve as your district representative.

Yours in solidarity,

David Doorga
District 75 Representative

The Plan Book: Nine tips to maximize efficiency

To make the most of the hours you spend in your school, you have to be efficient. Here are nine tips to maximize your effectiveness.

1. Submit your classroom instruction materials for photocopying at least two weeks in advance. This way, you will never be caught off guard when the office copy machine is in use or breaks down. Keep them online with your lesson plans.

2. When children are absent, set aside their homework in a special folder so it can be part of their holiday homework package.
3. Lock up your belongings. As we all know, the aggravation of losing a stapler or hole punch far exceeds its monetary value. Put your desk supplies in a small, locked bin at the end of the day.
4. Use a bell or a soft chime to call your class to order. It is surprising how quickly children will respond to a unique sound as opposed to spoken language. Some children prefer light cues. Use whatever works best for your students.
5. Use a kitchen timer to budget time for different tasks and adhere to your daily schedule. Some timers use a light or vibration to alert you without alerting the students. Also, if you use a kitchen timer, you won't accidentally use a personal phone for social media during instructional time. (It can be quite tempting!)
6. Label wooden clothespins with students' names. When "Maria" chooses a book from a leveled library bin, have her clip her personalized clothespin in the space where the book was so she can easily put it back.
7. Set aside time for either two positive phone calls home or two quick positive notes at least once a week. Use a class list to make sure each student is getting his or her fair share. Remember that the child with the most negative behavior probably needs positive praise the most.
8. When creating lesson plans, note which learning style(s) the plan highlights: A for auditory, V for visual, or K for kinesthetic. This also speeds things up when you are planning for next year or reading the IEPs of new students.
9. Buy an inexpensive document sorter, one with 12 or 15 slots — one per child. Place the children's homework in it early in the morning, then as school notices, nurse's notes, etc., come in throughout the day, you can easily add them to the appropriate child's division. This also ensures that an absent child will get school notices and permission slips.

Protect your identity!

Most of us know fellow District 75 staff members who have been victims of identity fraud and the problems it creates. Yet, the same District 75 staff member who wouldn't dream of throwing a child's IEP into a trash basket at school goes home and does just that with his bills, credit card statements and personal documents.

Get into the habit of shredding every financial document and then throw the shreds into the recycling bin. NEVER use a work computer to check your bank statements, apply for passports, shop or anything else that is inappropriate. Not only are you behaving in an unprofessional manner in violation of Chancellor's Regulations, but you are also inviting hackers into your financial and personal life. Take that extra moment to protect yourself. Untangling identity theft can take months, or even years.

Your new UFT membership card

The UFT is sending membership cards to every member. Your unique six-digit member ID number is on the back of your card.

This UFT ID number is different from your employee ID number or your NYSUT ID number. After Memorial Day, you'll use the number to register for UFT events, and we'll also ask for it when you visit or call a UFT borough office, request union forms or contact the UFT Welfare Fund — in fact, you will use it whenever you interact with the union. This card will also enable you to take advantage of new member-only UFT discounts for restaurants, entertainment, travel, and more! Keep it in your wallet or purse so you always have it with you.

If you don't receive your UFT membership card by May 25, or have a question about how to use it, please email the UFT at customerservice@uft.org or give the union a call at 212-598-9512.

Download the new UFT app today!

The union has released its new app for members only. If you haven't done so already, please download the app for Apple phones or the app for Android phones. You can use UFT-Mobile to access special member-only discounts for apparel, gifts, travel and more. The app contains a digital version of the UFT membership card with your six-digit UFT member ID number.

You can use it to prove you're a UFT member, whether for UFT services or for member discounts. UFT-Mobile offers a simple, fast way to connect with your union, from registering for classes to calling a specific UFT program or service to getting involved in the latest campaigns. You log in to the app using the same username and password you use for the UFT website. If you don't yet have a website account, the two-step online sign-up process is quick and easy. Encountering a technical issue with the app? Email appsupport@uft.org.

We also want to hear your suggestions as we add member-only discounts. Please let us know if you have helpful contacts with local or national merchants. Email the UFT at appdiscounts@uft.org, or give the union a call at 212-598-9512.

[Download the app for Apple phones »](#)
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Scholarships for undergraduate Puerto Rican women

UFT members are encouraged to reach out to eligible women in their school, family or community for the New York League of Puerto Rican Women 2018 College Award Scholarships, granted annually to undergraduate Puerto Rican women who demonstrate academic excellence and service to the community.

Applicants must be currently matriculated as an undergraduate student in an accredited institution of higher education, having earned a minimum of 12 accumulated credits with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and no failing grades. For full eligibility requirements and to download an application, see the [New York League of Puerto Rican Women website](#). The application deadline is Monday, May 28.

First 2% of total 5% salary increase took effect on May 1

Department of Education members of the UFT saw their salaries increase by 2 percent effective May 1 as part of the 2014 contract. All UFT pedagogues and paraprofessionals on the Q Bank payroll will receive the 2 percent increase in their May 15 paycheck. This 2 percent is the last step of the phase-in of the 8 percent retroactive rate increase arising from the 2009–11 period.

Nurses, therapists, education officers, education analysts and other eligible members who are on the H Bank payroll will see the 2 percent increase in their May 19 paycheck (for 13 days, May 1 to May 13).

All pedagogues who work per diem or per session will see the new pay rate in the June 1 paycheck for any days worked from May 1 to May 15. Substitute paras and paras working per session will see the new salary rate in their regular, semi-monthly check dated May 31.

UFT members will receive another pay increase of 3 percent on June 16. If you have any questions, please contact a salary rep in your [UFT borough office](#).

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](#).



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