



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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Ten Years of ATA Communication

As I type "Volume 10" at the top of the page it is hard to believe that I have been writing this newsletter for 10 years. During that time our district has gone through four superintendents, two schools closing, and another relocating. From the state we now have acronyms like APPR and CTLE—and their onerous requirements—that did not exist 10 years ago. And I've been here through it all to try to make sense of it and report on it.

The creation of *The Educator* came along with an ATA effort to expand communication to members, and in light of all of the changes we have been through at Arlington and with New York State education law, I hope that

you have found this newsletter to be a valuable resource, along with the ATA's website and social media accounts.

We're a large organization, with over 700 members in 11 schools and Central Office, and I

With the world around us more divided than ever, let's make an effort to preserve our strength through unity.


see my job as vital to keeping us united. That's what has kept me going for 10 years; not just reporting on information affecting our careers and certification, but also trying to connect us by sharing good news from

all of our buildings, and photos of ATA events.

Right now we are all focused on setting up our classrooms and getting back into school routines, but once the dust settles on the new school year I hope that you can take

some time to help strengthen the connections your union membership offers. Attend an ATA meeting (dates are on page 8), volunteer to help with our October movie fundraiser, or maybe just show up for a Unity Pub and meet some new colleagues. With the world around us more divided than ever, let's make an effort to preserve our strength through unity.

-Sam Falk, editor

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APPR Process Altered

Trivia Challenge

Answer the question below correctly and you could be the proud winner of ATA gear!

Approximately how many local unions are a part NYSUT?

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to sfalk@acsdny.org by September 13. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

The APPR process for the 2019-20 school year has been changed following a series of discussions between the ATA's APPR committee, Deputy Superintendent Jonathan Brown, and several district administrators. Representing the ATA were Greg Nieman (1st Vice President), Sam Falk (AHS), Kristine Jackson (LMS), Betsy Marshall (JDWR), and Bill Mueller (BES).

The student performance segment of APPR could not simply be altered due to state law and the ATA's negotiated APPR plan, but some parts of the observation segment could be: the district-required paperwork, and the number of Danielson components observed.

The impetus for considering these changes was that those aspects of the current system seemed to cause the most stress, and take up the most time, for teachers and administrators alike. Going forward, there will be no required paperwork for any part of the observation. No lesson plan, no pre- or post-observation

forms, no artifacts. All of the items previously addressed in writing can now simply be discussed.

Slightly more challenging to work with was the Danielson rubric. We are

ensure that no teacher would be hurt by any proposed changes.

In the end, the decision was made to use Danielson's new organization of "clusters" to aid the process of narrowing-down which of the 22 components to use, rather than choosing individual components. The six clusters group the Danielson components by themes such as professionalism and engagement. After careful consideration, clusters two and five were chosen

What Is Changing:

- **The number of Danielson components used for the announced observation - 10 instead of 22**
- **No more required paperwork for any part of the observation process, other than a confirmation that the process occurred**
 - **No lesson plan, pre- or post-observation forms, no artifacts**

required to use it, but not all 22 components. Much discussion took place as to the minimum number of components that would

to make up Arlington's observation rubric, comprising 10 components. (Please see the following page for more details.)

What Is NOT Changing:

- **The use of student test scores for APPR**
- **The number of observations**
- **The timing of observations, including the pre- and post-observation conferences**
- **All aspects of the unannounced observation**
- **The method of calculating the observation score and the overall APPR score**

be sufficient to fairly assess a teacher, and which components are the most important to include. The ATA's committee members worked to

In the coming month district administrators will be offering more training about the new APPR system, but in the meantime don't hesitate to email ataupdate@gmail.com, or ask questions of any member of the ATA's APPR committee. The new APPR process will be reevaluated before the end of the school year and feedback is appreciated.

-Sam Falk,
ATA Communications Chair

Danielson, Abridged

When preparing for your observation as part of the 2019-2020 APPR cycle, you will want to take a look at the slimmed-down list of Danielson components that you will be working with (see the previous page for the background on this). No changes have been made to the format of the rubric, with its “highly effective”, “effective”, “developing”, and “ineffective” categories, but you won’t be rated on 12 of the 22 components anymore.

Gone is the frustration with never scoring “highly effective” in the component about organizing physical space (2e) since your lab tables are attached to the floor, or having to explain that you really do want to do more professional development, but you have to get your kids off of the bus and can’t stay after school (4e).

The following 10 indicators within Danielson’s Cluster 2 and 5 are the sole components that comprise Arlington’s announced observation rubric for the 2019-2020 school year. More details will be available in your school’s common drive.

Cluster 5: Successful Learning By All Students

Indicator 1b: Demonstrating Knowledge of Students

Indicator 1d: Demonstrating Knowledge of Resources

Indicator 1f: Designing Student Assessments

Indicator 3d: Using Assessment In Instruction

Indicator 3e: Demonstrating Flexibility and Responsiveness

Indicator 4a: Reflecting On Teaching

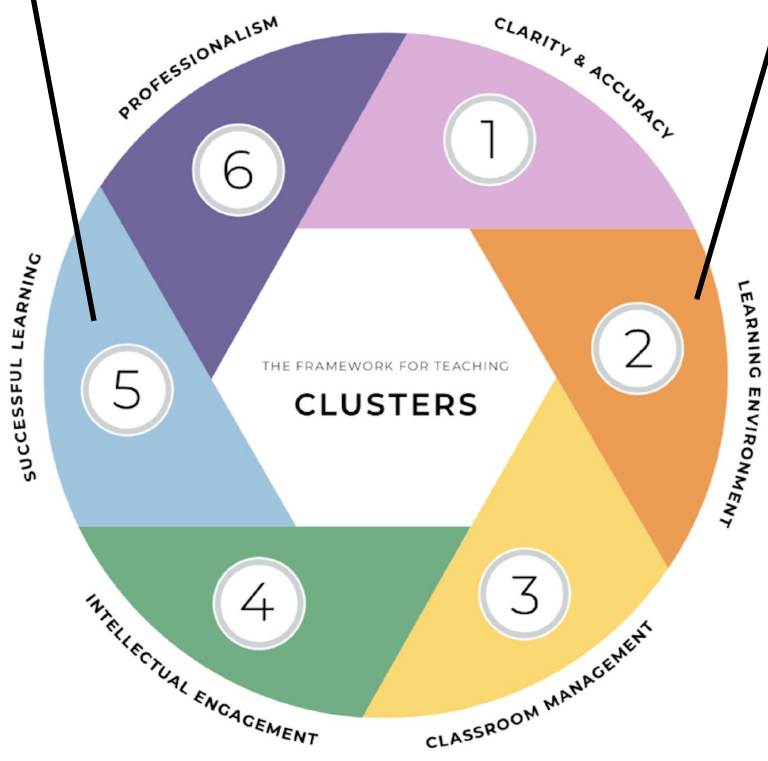
Indicator 4b: Maintaining Accurate Records

Indicator 4c: Communicating With Families

Cluster 2: Safe, Respectful, Supportive, and Challenging Learning Environment

Indicator 2a: Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport

Indicator 2b: Establishing a Culture For Learning



Welcome, New Members!

The Arlington Teachers' Association hopes that all members are settling in to their classrooms this year and would like to welcome the following people to the Arlington School District and the ATA. To help us get to know them, each new member was asked **what they will be teaching, where they are from, and what their favorite food is**. Please let us know if there are more additions to your building that we can include in the next issue.

◆ELEMENTARY SCHOOL◆

Arthur S. May

Michelle Forsythe—5th Grade—Fishkill, NY—Fruit Snacks

Laura Mosher-Comizio

Dan Rimaldi—Special Education—East Fishkill, NY—Seafood

Beekman

Meagan Claro—2nd Grade—Beacon, NY—Pizza

Brittany Noble—5th Grade—Rotterdam, NY—Pizza

Katrina O'Malley (also at NOX)—Reading

Kristen Popolizio—5th Grade—Wappingers Falls, NY—Pizza

Noxon

Julie Kimbark—2nd Grade—Poughkeepsie, NY—Absolutely Everything

Jennifer Klementis—School Psychologist—Woodstock, NY—Shellfish

Daniel Longarino—3rd Grade—Bronx, NY—Pizza

Non-Public

Jessica Westover—Special Education—Highland, NY—Ice Cream

Overlook

Sarah Armstrong—Reading—Bronx, NY—Cheesecake



ATA New Teacher Luncheon - August 27, 2019

Titusville**Caitlyn Callas** (also at NOX)—Library—Walkill, NY—Japanese Food**Jessie McFee****Nicole Minton** (also at ASM)—ENL—Schenectady, NY—Ramen**Traver Road****Nicole Kozlowski**—Kindergarten—New Windsor, NY—Eggplant Rollatini**Vail Farm****Heather Davies**—Special Education—Mohegan Lake, NY—Ice Cream**Sharon Fusaro**—Kindergarten—Carmel, NY—Eggplant Parmesan**Lauren Hichak**—Kindergarten—Pleasant Valley, NY—Macaroni & Cheese**Cayla Kelemen**—Kindergarten—Hopewell Jct., NY—Chocolate Chip Cookies**Melissa Minski** (also at BES)—Speech**West Road****Monica Enright**—Music—Poughkeepsie, NY—Chicken Wings**Michael Ferrara**—5th Grade—Poughkeepsie, NY—Beef Tongue Taco**Christina Ritter****Tara Rosser****◆ MIDDLE SCHOOL ◆****LaGrange****Tyler Albrecht**—Health**Nicholas Gilbert**—English**Christina Harsch**—English—Poughquag, NY—Soup**Union Vale****Kerrie Hart**—Social Worker—Hyde Park, NY—Chili**◆ HIGH SCHOOL ◆****Nicole Asendorf** (also at LMS)—Art—Newburgh, NY—Indian Food**Brenda Hay**—Business—New Paltz, NY—Sushi**Ashley Minard**—Math—Salt Point, NY—Tacos**Lauren Ras**—Art—Marlboro, NY—Rainbow Cookies**Danielle Stier** (also at UVMS)—Music—Poughkeepsie, NY—Pasta

2019 — 2020 ATA Officers

President

Bob Maier

First Vice-President

Greg Nieman

Second Vice-President

Steve Hertzog

Treasurer

Dave Cordella

Chief Negotiator

Robert McHugh

PR Committee Chair

Kristine Jackson

Community Action Chairs

Brendan Lawlor

Betsy Marshall

Welfare Trust Chair

Ron Higgins

Communications Chair

Sam Falk

Senior Building Representatives

ASM — Erica Dunn

BES — Adrienne Pisciotta

NES — Nicolle McMorris

VFES — Gwen Moschetto

OPS — Nancy Thomas

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR — Betsy Marshall

TIS — Joe Sutka

LMS — Kevin Walsh

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Noreen Mills Martin

What's Going On? Summer Edition

"What's Going on" is a monthly feature of The Educator. It highlights noteworthy accomplishments by ATA members. Do you know of a colleague who deserves recognition? Let The Educator know by emailing sfalk@acsdny.org. We can't know what's going on at all of your schools without your help!

The following are just a few examples of the ways ATA members used their summer vacation to enrich their teaching experience.

Scholastic Reading Summit

Pictured from left to right, elementary teachers Eileen Snook (BES), Julie Shook (ASM), and Alicia Jazayeri (BES) attended the Scholastic Reading Summit in Greenwich, CT on July 18. They met John Schu, Ambassador of School Libraries for Scholastic book fairs, and learned about topics such as the power of booktalks.



Photo by Greg Ball

NEH Classes

Each year the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) offers tuition-free stipended opportunities for K-12 teachers to take week-long classes on a variety of topics. This July the following AHS teachers participated: Sam Falk attended "Movement, Mobilization, and Militarization: The Bay Area Home Front in World War II" in Berkeley, CA; Courtney Grey and Krysta Weiss attended "Slavery in the Colonial North" in Pocantico Hills, NY; Robert McHugh attended "Manifest Destiny Reconsidered, The Utah Experience" in Salt Lake City, UT; and Colleen Napora attended "Forever Wild: The Adirondacks in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era" in Raquette Lake, NY.



Photo courtesy of Tina Tamweber

Hudson Valley Writing Project

Shown from left to right, Tina Tamweber (AHS), Eileen Snook (BES), Lynn Grainger (BES), and Andrew Stock (ASM) met up at the HVWP Summer Institute on July 31 in New Paltz. The day included teacher inquiry workshops and a community reading about grading and feedback.

ATA Website Gets A Tune-Up

Twenty-one years ago I was approached by then ATA president Ron Higgins about the possibility of starting a website for the union. I had learned HTML in the Hudson User's Group, a local group of Mac enthusiasts, and thought I might be able to use those skills to help the ATA. I produced the first website a year later, but soon revamped it. I discovered at the time that many of our members were still using dial-up modems and the average screen size had a lower resolution than even the cheapest smartphones of today.

The ATA website 2.0 was leaner and faster, but not much to look at. About 10 years ago I rewrote the code for the website from the ground up, modernizing it quite a bit, with the added goal of making it easy to update.

Time marches on, and about

six months ago and I began jotting down ideas for a new update which would be nicer to look at and would format correctly for smartphones or tablets. With the arrival of summer vacation, I started reworking the website in earnest. I believe I've achieved most of my goals, but of course this is a

Visit arlingtonteachers.com to see the ATA's new website.

work in progress. Feel free to make any suggestions on ways to make the site work better for you. I rely on people spot-checking for errors and omissions.

For every iteration of the ATA website, some things have remained constant. The goal has always been to provide our members with access to all the information they might need, in

one convenient spot. Links are provided for all ATA forms, and contact information for all the union representatives and committee members. You can also see your union contract. A popular feature has always been the photo gallery, where we post pictures of every ATA event we can. For the sake of faster load times, I do massage the files to make them smaller, so our members are welcome to write if there is a particular photo you'd like sent to you in full resolution. The newest edition to our webpage is the ATA's Twitter feed for the latest news right on the front page. Please enjoy our new website, and write me via webmaster@arlingtonteachers.com with your feedback.

-Dave Moss,
ATA Webmaster

Congratulations to Newly Tenured ATA Members

Elementary

Arthur S. May

Johanna Kiernan

Patrick O'Connor

Titusville

Susan Sapek

Traver Road

Carol Berliner

Ann Marie Burnell

Vail Farm

Eleni Anemelos

Jessica DeCandia

Middle

Union Vale

Ann Buonincontri

Nicole Cusano

Melissa Dominick

Sean McDermott

Michael Wiesenthal

Dates to Remember

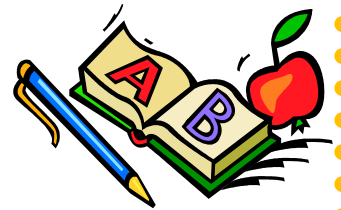
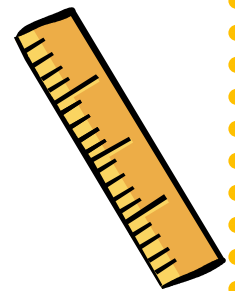


SEPTEMBER

- 10th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 17th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 19th—Middle School Open House
- 24th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 30th—Rosh Hashanah—No School

OCTOBER

- 1st—Deadline to submit information for graduate or inservice credit
Deadline for using 2018-2019 Welfare Trust Benefits
- 3rd—High School Open House
- 9th—Yom Kippur—No School
- 14th—Columbus Day—No School
- 15th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 24th—Professional Development Half Day
- 26th—Harry Potter AEF Fundraiser, 9:15 a.m., Roosevelt Cinemas
- 29th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 31st—Elementary School Half Day



Announcements

SAVE THE DATE! our 2nd Annual Morning Movie to benefit the Arlington Education Foundation will be held at Roosevelt Cinemas in Hyde Park on **October 26**. We will be showing *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

ATA Executive Council meetings are open to all members. They will take place this school year at 4 p.m. in AHS room 1432 on the following Tuesdays: 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 1/21, 2/18, 3/17, 4/21, 5/12, 6/16

Stay informed! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or check out www.arlingtonteachers.com for forms, photos, calendars, and more.