



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Daisy Rodriguez 2

Be introduced to the new assistant superintendent.

Tenure

Congratulations to newly tenured ATA members.

Trivia Challenge

Win ATA gear.

Dave Moyer 3

Learn about the new superintendent.

New Members 4

See who our new colleagues are.

What's Going On? 6

Member accomplishments are highlighted.

Summer Solace 7

Read about how members de-stressed over the summer.

Calendar and Announcements 8

And, We're Back...

It's been a heck of a time the last year and a half, hasn't it? The last *Educator* that was published (in March 2020) was a rush job just as we were being sent home from school, supposedly for two weeks.

Little did I know at the time that I wouldn't manage to publish again until now.

When thinking about what has gone on in the world since the last *Educator*, I start to list so many things that they begin to take on the tune of Billy Joel's *We Didn't Start the Fire*: coronavirus, quarantine, school boards and CRT, George Floyd, wild fires, siege of the Capitol... We've been through a lot.

Although we were not physically together for much of the last 18 months, we were still supporting each other through all of this, as we continue to do now. Last June there was hope that

we'll do our best to keep ourselves and our students safe, and to incorporate the lessons learned over the past year of educational turmoil.

Oh, and on top of the changes within our classrooms, and schools, we also have replaced almost every administrator at CAO during the pandemic. In the pages of this newsletter you will be introduced to two of them.

Welcome back! We'll get through all of these changes and the uncertainty of pandemic school together. Enjoy meeting your new students (in person!) and take it all one day at a time.

-Sam Falk, editor

It's evident that there is no more "normal" for school, but we'll do our best to keep ourselves and our students safe, and to incorporate the lessons learned over the past year of educational turmoil.

things might even be relatively back to normal at school for September, but the Delta variant had other plans.

Nonetheless, here we are. It's evident that there is no more "normal" for school, but



ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
46 Davis Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



(845) 454-7002 · www.arlingtonteachers.com · ata4547002@aol.com

Introducing: Daisy Rodriguez

Trivia Challenge

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

At one point in its history, Arlington High School was briefly named after a superintendent. Which one?

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to sfalk@acsdny.org by September 17. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.



Photo courtesy Daisy Rodriguez
Assistant Superintendent Daisy Rodriguez

Fifth grade and middle school math teacher, guidance counselor, middle school and high school principal, and mother of four: these experiences are what Daisy Rodriguez believes will make her successful in her new position as Arlington’s Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. She explains, “This puts me in a unique

perspective where I can kind of understand all these different roles, and I think that it’s really proven valuable now in the role that I’m in because I’m able to connect the different levels and support staff as well.”

In her own words, Rodriguez is “in charge of curriculum and instruction for the district, K-12, and supporting all of the building leaders in driving instruction”. She has not worked in central administration before and believes that her prior position as a middle school principal in the White Plains City School District will be particularly valuable for her transition this year since she started that job right before the pandemic hit. “I’m able to actually understand what’s happening at the building

level,” she explains, “and make sure that I’m giving the teachers and the principals and school leaders the guidance that they need every single day since I kind of understand it from the other perspective.”

Rodriguez is looking forward to settling into her new role, and is especially excited about Arlington’s equity initiative. She voices, “I really appreciate that the equity role lives within the curriculum department because I think that they have to be tied together. Equity’s not a whole separate initiative outside of what we do day-to-day, so I really like that this role encompasses all of the things that I am really passionate about.”

-Sam Falk,
ATA Communications Chair

Congratulations To Newly Tenured ATA Members

Elementary

Arthur S. May
Kristen Sheehan

Beekman
Christie Boydston
Lauren Feliciano-Weston
Rachel Perrone
Lauren Wagner

Noxon
Katherine McKeon
Jenna Nappi

Overlook

Shannon Silano

Traver Road
Paula Richardson

Vail Farm
Jennifer D'Antoni
Jeanette Roman

West Road
Katie Cory
Kimberly Eger

Middle

LaGrange
Elizabeth Socci

Union Vale
Lisa Decker
Brittany DePaola

High

Amanda Lachman
Elizabeth LaTuso
Evan Rzodkiewicz
Arielle Sharp
John Sullivan

Moyer Prioritizes Teamwork



Photo by Sam Falk

Superintendent Dave Moyer

Dave Moyer doesn't want to talk about himself. "I don't do that kind of stuff," Arlington's new superintendent protests, "I could really turn everybody off and spend a lot of time talking about myself because I'm so special and all that." What he does want ATA members to know about him is that, "There are probably few superintendents around who invest, and commit to invest, in the professional learning opportunities for teachers and administrators the way I do."

Moyer comes to Arlington from the Midwest where he began his career in education as a middle school English teacher, varsity baseball coach, and freshman basketball coach in his hometown of Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He was then a pitching coach at a Division III university in Kentucky before returning to a position as a middle school teacher and athletic director at a small school in Illinois. Most recently, Moyer was the superintendent of Elmhurst School District 205 in Illinois for six years, following a few other

administrative positions.

When asked why he decided to move half-way across the country to Arlington, Moyer explains that now that his children are older (the youngest is a junior in college), he and his wife were looking for a change. They were particularly attracted to the Northeast, and when the superintendent job in Arlington opened up, "it was really pretty close to almost exactly what we were looking for". Moyer feels that he is a good fit for what the district was seeking in a superintendent, and is, so far, happy with his move.

Moyer's take on leading a district, influenced by his years as a teacher and coach, is that too much time is spent focusing on remediating weaknesses, and not enough on building people's strengths. Using a baseball analogy, he explains, "Rarely do

ing the learning experience for students. Moyer states that he's not trying to reinvent the wheel, saying, "If you have things that are working you build off of that. The thing is that sometimes we forget that not everything works equally well for every kid. The question is really what's working for what kid, at what cost."

He acknowledges that that can seem overwhelming to teachers, and that is why a support system must be in place: "We have to stop thinking that we have to do it all ourselves. We have to collaborate; we have to build collective expertise, and we have to rely on each other to do this work."

In addition to using the PLC system, the goal of collaboration will also be facilitated through the use of several technological endeavors, including the introduction of Performance

Matters, which Moyer describes as a computerized system that will "give us the capacity to build common assessments in a balanced assessment system that we don't currently have."

"We have to stop thinking that we have to do it all ourselves. We have to collaborate; we have to build collective expertise, and we have to rely on each other to do this work."

-- Superintendent Dave Moyer

you get a person who can run, throw, hit with power, hit for average...field, do everything. What you have are your nine players and you try to put them in positions where collectively they can be successful, individually, and as a team." He believes that, in education, the importance of teams and building on people's strengths is often lost track of.

To that end, there will be a renewed focus on PLC work this year, with the goal of personaliz-

Lest working on personalized learning and new technology sound daunting as we return to school in the midst of a pandemic, Moyer reassures ATA members that there will be ongoing training over a couple of years, and he is trying not to overwhelm people: "We can't just drop a ton of stuff on people on September 2 and 3 and say 'okay, now go', because that's not fair, and it won't work."

-Sam Falk,
ATA Communications Chair

Welcome, New Members!

The Arlington Teachers' Association 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

Danielle D'Ambrozio—Special Education—Carmel, NY—Eggplant Parmesan

Sherry Ann Dolah-Kum—5th Grade—Hopewell Junction, NY—Pasta

Amanda Maselli—Speech—Carmel, NY—Pizza

Shelby Munoz—Speech—Sherman, CT—Ice Cream

Beekman

Courtney Barbara—4th Grade—Fishkill, NY—Macaroni & Cheese

Kristy O'Connell—Elementary Ed—Franklin Square, NY—Asian Food

Anya Tomaseski—Special Education—Staatsburg, NY—Ice Cream

Central Office

Jessica Knowlton—Phycologist

Non-Public

Andrea DeMeo—Special Education

Noxon

Sarah Flanagan—1st Grade—Beacon, NY—Curry

Erin Gargano—1st Grade—Mahopac, NY—Italian

Kathryne Gruskin—Kindergarten—West Islip, NY—Tacos

Abigail Heaton—1st Grade—Poughkeepsie, NY—Pizza

Kelli Snowden—Special Education—Poughkeepsie, NY—Seafood

Juliana Steffes—Psychologist—Hartford, CT—Anything Breakfast Related

Overlook

Laura Bagnarol (also at ASM,VF)—Social Worker—Hopewell Junction, NY—Any/all

Jaime Politi—Special Education—Wappingers Falls, NY—Pizza

Euni Shim—2nd Grade—Long Island, NY—Penne Alla Vodka

Kathrine Wimmers (also at TRP)—Music

Titusville

Myra Perez—3rd Grade—Monroe, NY—Veggie Pizza

Traver Road

Amanda Brown—1st Grade ICT—Cortlandt Manor, NY—Pasta
Cassandra Jaeb—2nd Grade—Pleasant Valley, NY—Grilled Cheese
Gina Mollica—2nd Grade—Salt Point, NY—Macaroni, Ice Cream
Kira Riccio—1st Grade—Hopewell Junction, NY—Macaroni & Cheese

Vail Farm

Bridget McGorry—Special Education—Putnam Valley, NY—Pizza
Jenna Riefenhauser—Special Education—Yonkers, NY—Pizza
Lauren Scianimanico—Speech—LaGrangeville, NY—Eggplant Parmesan
Alyson Shortt—Special Education
Carol Waldschmidt—Reading
Garrett VonderHeide—5th Grade—Johnstown, NY—Popcorn

West Road

Christine Jensen—3rd Grade

◆MIDDLE SCHOOL◆**LaGrange**

Christine Fiore (also at UVMS)—Music
Shannon Gilhuly—Math AIS—Wallingford, CT
Christine Otero-Fine—Special Education
Rachel Van Der Stuyf—Math—California, PA—Strawberries
Elena Yess (also at AHS)—Art—New Paltz, NY—Italian Food

Union Vale

Alexandra Casado—Social Studies—Wappingers Falls, NY—Pizza
Miriam Cestero—Special Education—Shrub Oak, NY—Shrimp
Olivia Gorlan-Delfs—Guidance—Hopewell Junction, NY—Chocolate
James Keller—Math—Red Hook, NY—Pizza/French Toast
Amanda Lenane—6th Grade ICT—Millbrook, NY—Tacos
Jillian Spanier—Math AIS—East Islip, NY—All Kinds Of Pasta
David Uridia—Social Studies—Barrytown, NY—Pasta/Seafood

◆HIGH SCHOOL◆

Melissa Renaud—Guidance

2021 — 2022 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

Bill Mueller

Welfare Trust Chair

Ron Higgins

Communications Chair

Sam Falk

Senior Building Representatives

ASM — A'Rehema Leach

BES — Adrienne Pisciotta/
Melissa Maiello

Noxon — Nicolle McMorris

VFES — Pina Bruno

OPS — Nancy Thomas

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR — Barbara Mackey

TIS — Joe Sutka

LMS — Patty Bauerlein

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Noreen MillsMartin

What's Going On?

"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!

Congratulations to the following ATA members for their contributions to the Arlington community and beyond.

Arlington High

ENL teacher Laurie Sorgen attended a writing workshop in July that was a part of "Maryland's Original Victorian Chautauqua" which took place in Mountain Lake Park, Maryland. The workshop, called "Going Deeper: Telling Your Story Through Memoir and Personal Essays", was taught by Professor Diana Hume George. Sorgen says, "I met some awesome people and was able to write for myself and process some painful personal experiences of the past year. It was very helpful to me to be around people who were not teachers (with the exception of one college professor). It allowed me some distance and the chance to explore themes that have nothing to do with teaching or students."

Arlington Music

Music teacher Jon Handman (AHS) ran a summer program called Summer Strings. He is the executive artistic director at the Stringendo Orchestra School of the Hudson Valley. Danielle Stier (AHS and UVMS), Kris



Photo Courtesy William Stevens

Union Vale Middle

Music teacher William Stevens performed a July 4th concert at Boscobel (pictured above) with the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra (GNSO). Stevens is the principal clarinetist in the GNSO. This was the first in-person concert that the group has performed in over 15 months.

Rizzo (UVMS), and Elizabeth Handman (AHS) also taught in the program.

Union Vale Middle

Special Education teacher Michele Simonetty has been selected to present at the Association for Middle Level Education annual conference in November. The conference was supposed to be in Kentucky, but has been changed to a virtual format. She is presenting with a former colleague, Christine Schmidt. The session is titled "Becoming a Co-teaching Chameleon" and is intended for pre-service and new teachers. This is the third time she has been selected to present at this national conference.

West Road

Fifth grade teacher Michael Ferrara attended the Anti-

Racist Teaching Through History course with the Hudson Valley Writing Project/Critical Teaching Partners this summer. He states, "This workshop taught us how to use the lens of history to teach anti-racist concepts, and how to examine historical documents and events through an anti-racist lens. We also shared, and learned techniques and strategies to use when engaging students in these concepts. At the end of the week, we all shared a lesson or unit we designed, using some of the techniques and strategies we learned. It was a very collaborative experience, and it was great to bounce ideas off one another, and build on each other's thoughts and creative energy. It was very engaging, and Jackie Hesse and Christine McCartney always do an incredible job with these workshops."

Seeking Summer Serenity

After the toughest year most educators have encountered in their careers, summer was a welcome time to try to de-stress and recuperate. The following experiences were submitted by ATA members in response to questions posed through social media.

What is an activity that helped you de-stress this summer?

Hugging my mom in Chattanooga, TN.

Paige Van Tassell, AHS, Science

I tried Stand Up Paddle Board Yoga. I've done yoga, I've gone paddle boarding... but never together. It was great.

Sheri Altieri, UVMS, Art

This was mainly a summer at home to heal after losing my mom to COVID in January. I de-stressed at my pool for hours reading and swimming laps, took nightly walks with my family after prepping and eating meals together, played fetch with the dogs and cuddled with the cats daily.

I have a 3 year old daughter who is obsessed with dinosaurs right now so we visited Dinosaur Roar Valley in Lake George and The Dinosaur Place in Connecticut to see life-sized dinosaurs! It was a ton of fun for Dino lovers (big and small)!

Crystal Sanchez, OPS, 2nd Grade

Tenting at the beach with my daughters before they return to college.

Chris Shave, TIS, 3rd Grade

Traveling the East coast from home to Key West and back in our RV.

Matt Backus, AHS, Technology Ed.

Barbara Amyotte, TRPS, 2nd Grade

Many educators have more time to read over the summer. Are there particular books that you read recently that you would like to share?

The Lost Girls of Paris, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks—Courtney Grey, AHS, Social Studies

The House Girl by Tara Conklin and *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson—Elise Pattison, NOX, 4th Grade

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah—Kathleen Vogt, UVMS, 8th Grade Health

Song of Achilles, Ratchedemic, Crying in H-Mart, The City We Became—Sara Armstrong, OPS

Dates to Remember

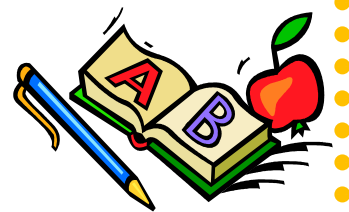
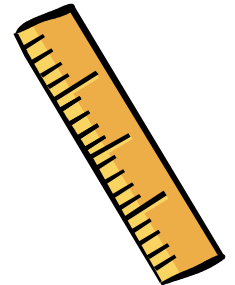


SEPTEMBER

- 14th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., UVMS
- 16th—Yom Kippur—No School
- 21st—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 28th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

OCTOBER

- 1st—Deadline to submit information for graduate or inservice credit
Deadline for using 2020-2021 Welfare Trust benefits
- 11th—Columbus Day/Indigenous People Day—No School
- 12th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TIS
- 19th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 22nd—Professional Development Half Day
- 26th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 27th—Elementary School Half Day



Announcements

Don't Forget To Re-Register!

NYS law requires that all teachers re-register every five years in order to maintain their Professional or Permanent certificates, and that time is up. Make sure to go to <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach/> by the end of your birth month to re-register.

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: 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 5/10, 6/21

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