



# THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2023

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## Welcome Back!

Welcome back ATA Members! I hope that your summer provided you with whatever it is you needed most to be refreshed and ready for a new school year. You can read in this newsletter about the adventures that a few ATA members had over the past two months, while many of you enjoyed time with family, catching up on your reading, or relaxing at the beach. Others taught summer school or worked a seasonal second job. We go our separate ways in June, but now we're back at school and all together again.

Although we are in eleven different build-

ings and may teach vastly different subjects and grade levels, or be in an office rather than a classroom, our union links us together. "The ATA" is not just the leadership—it is all

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of us. This school year let's make an effort to take advantage of the ties that our union provides. Yes, there are the big things, like our Welfare Trust benefits, and our contractual rights (thank you, negotiating team!) that

we are all entitled to by simply paying dues, but there is more than that. Have you attended a Unity Pub and gotten the chance to meet new colleagues? Have you helped to collect donations for one of the local organizations that we support? Being an ATA member gives you the chance to expand your sphere beyond your immediate associates at school and even to make a difference in your community.

Perhaps in the past you were too busy with family obligations, or simply too tired as a new teacher to want to do anything after work, but maybe this is the See Union on page 3



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# ATA Night At the Renegades Returns

After a few years off, ATA Night at the Renegades made its return on August 24 with approximately 80 ATA members and their families gathered at Heritage Financial Park in Beacon. Like most of the previous years of the event, including its inception in 2011, it was a bit rainy, but the game was played, and the evening included all-you-can-eat food, play area access for kids, and some great baseball.

## Trivia Challenge

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

*In what year did yellow become the official color of American school buses?*

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to [sfalk@acsdny.org](mailto:sfalk@acsdny.org) by September 15. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.



# Congratulations To Newly Tenured ATA Members

## Elementary

Arthur S. May  
 Laura Comizio  
 Michelle Frustaglio

Beekman  
 Meagan Claro  
 Brittany Noble  
 Kristen Popolizio

Noxon  
 Daniel Longarino  
 Rebecca Loscher

Titusville  
 Jessie McFee

Traver Road  
 Nicole Kozlowski

Vail Farm  
 Heather Corrigan  
 Lauren Hichak  
 Ann-Marie Howard  
 Melissa Leibowitz  
 Cayla McGuire

West Road  
 Michael Ferrara  
 Monica Klos  
 Christina Ritter

## Middle

LaGrange  
 Tyler Albrecht  
 Ashley Minard

Union Vale  
 Kerrie Hart

## High

Kisa Baginski  
 Lauren Ras  
 Rebecca Sadrianna  
 Kerri Simeone

**Central Office**  
 Jessica Westover

# Our Union Links Us Together

*Continued from front*  
 year that you can start to get involved. Making connections through social events or volunteer work allows us to feel less alone during those times when school can be stressful. Attending ATA-sponsored events is a great way to feel like a part of a community. We lost a little bit of that during the COVID shutdown, but we can get it back.

Annual ATA events to look forward to include our movie morning, the children's holiday party, the Jackie Higgins SPCA drive, the spring highway clean-up, Rebuilding To-

gether Dutchess County, and a few Unity Pubs throughout the year. For those of you who are ready to do more, help is also needed running these events, working on the landscaping at the ATA Office (see below) and putting together *The Educator*.

Make sure not to miss out on ATA happenings by looking out for communications through home and school email, following the ATA on Facebook and Twitter if you are on social media, or simply reading this newsletter. In addition, all ATA members are welcome to attend Ex-

ecutive Council meetings (dates provided on page 8) to hear more of the discussions behind the workings of your union.

Don't know whom to talk to to get involved? Reach out to me at [ataupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ataupdate@gmail.com) and I'll connect you with the committee chair, building rep, or officer that can get you the information you need.

I hope to see you at an ATA event this year! Have a great start to school.

-Sam Falk,  
 Communications Chair

## Landscaping Help Needed At the ATA Office

If you would like to help out with maintaining the landscaping at the ATA office, please consider joining me on the second Saturday of each month, starting on September 9. Weather permitting, we will meet at 8 a.m. and work for two hours. Tasks may include weeding, mulching, pruning, and planting. Please dress accordingly and bring gloves. Thank you for your consideration. -Nancy Thomas (OPS)



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# 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

**Amanda Goodman**—Inst. Coach—Wappingers Falls, NY—French Fries

**Carly Lopergolo**—Speech—Marlboro, NY—Burritos and Ice Cream

**Melissa Perez**—ENL—LaGrange, NY—Pizza, Tacos, Cookies

### Beekman

**Meghan Gilleo**—Social Worker

### Noxon

**Veronica Freyvert**—3rd Grade—Hopewell, NY—Pasta

**Jessica Petri**—Speech

### Overlook

**Claire McAllister**—Reading—New Paltz, NY—Anything With Pesto

### Vail Farm

**Laura Cahill**—Speech

**Danielle Greco**—4th Grade—Hopewell Junction, NY—Watermelon

**Amber Ilker**—4th Grade—Poughkeepsie, NY—Pulled Pork Mac & Cheese

**Jamie Rifenburg**—Special Education—Rhinebeck, NY—Pasta

### West Road

**Ariel Balbuena**—4th Grade—New York, NY—Chicken Wings

**Lindsay Byer**—4th Grade—Poughkeepsie, NY—Cookies & Cream Ice Cream

**Tyler Feliciano**—3rd Grade—Poughkeepsie, NY—Pizza

**Ryan Gordona**—Music—Tully, NY—Chicken Parmesan

**Anne Greenberg**—Special Education

**Amy McChesney**—Library—Pleasant Valley, NY—Italian/Comfort

**Stephanie Melo-Ramos**—Inst. Coach

**Kaitlin Riley**—Social Worker—LaGrangeville, NY—Mango

**Jayda Woodall**—4th Grade—Poughquag, NY—Pizza

## ◆ MIDDLE SCHOOL ◆

### LaGrange

**Brady Battistoni**—Health—Pleasant Valley, NY—Veal Parmesan

**Paul Dorward**—Science—DeRuyter, NY—French Fries  
**Stephen Lehnert**—Technology—Pleasant Valley, NY—Tacos  
**Connor Melanophy**—Social Studies—LaGrange, NY—Chicken Parmesan

### **Union Vale**

**Grace Johnson**—Special Ed./Math—Rhinebeck, NY—Oreos  
**Joseph Keane**—Special Ed./Math—Brewster, NY—Mac & Cheese  
**Samantha Maier**—Health—Pine Bush, NY—Salad  
**Caitlyn McInerney**—Science—Newburgh, NY—Sushi  
**Matthew O’Dair**—Phys. Ed./Health—Mohegan Lake, NY—Steak  
**Nickeya Smith** (also at LMS)—Business—Staten Island, NY—Sushi

### **◆HIGH SCHOOL◆**

**Betsey Armstrong**—Special Education—Rhinebeck, NY—Pizza  
**Rebecca Castellanos**—Science—Poughkeepsie, NY—Tlayudas  
**Cayla Cetola**—Social Worker—Fishkill, NY—Crab  
**Caitlyn Corigliano-Maceli**—Science—Northport, NY—Pizza  
**Christopher DellaCamera**—Italian—Stormville, NY—Pizza  
**Jacqueline Imperati**—Guidance—Poughkeepsie, NY—Shrimp Scampi  
**Audrey Jones**—ENL  
**Erica Lasewicz**—Science—Belchertown, MA—Ice Cream  
**Roy Ludwig**—Science—LaGrange, NY—Ice Cream  
**Lindsay Malile**—Phys. Ed.—LaGrangeville, NY—Pizza  
**Hailey Meyer** (also at LMS)—Art—Poughquag, NY—Chocolate Chip Cookies  
**Sarah O’Keefe**—Math Special Ed.—Bronx, NY—Pizza  
**Sidney Scoralick**—Engineering—Poughquag, NY—Pasta  
**Edward Stehr**—Social Studies  
**Michelle Williamson**—Special Ed./Algebra—Staten Island, NY—Shrimp



Photo by Sam Falk

New teachers and their mentors were treated to lunch while learning about ATA benefits at AHS on August 29.

## 2023 — 2024 ATA Officers

**President**

Bob Maier

**Elementary Vice President**

Nicolle McMorris

**Secondary Vice President**

Greg Nieman

**Vice President For Membership**

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 — Christie Boydston

Noxon— Lynette Battle

VFES— Gwen Moschetto

OPS — Nancy Thomas

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR—Barbara Mackey

TIS — Heather Blatz

LMS — Bill Mueller

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Theresa Daleo-Stock

# 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](mailto: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.



Photo Courtesy Theresa Daleo-Stock

### World Language

AHS World Language teacher Theresa Daleo-Stock (pictured, left), ASM 5th grade teacher Andrew Stock, and their children spent three weeks in France this summer. While they were there Theresa had the chance to meet (in person, for the first time) one of the English teachers whose students have been pen pals with Arlington High School French students for the past two years. Her name is Aurélie Baron (pictured, right) and the school is in Guinguamp, Brittany, in northwestern France.



Photo Courtesy Chris Shave

### Agriculture

TIS third grade teacher Chris Shave and his family showed their sheep at the Dutchess County Fair at the end of August. Shave welcomed visits by past and future students (his "Super Sidekicks") and was even visited by Jacklyn Holtzmann (pictured above left, with Shave), who will be student teaching with him this fall. Holtzmann is an Arlington graduate who attended Titusville.

### Science

AHS science teacher Sam Falk attended the Clean energy Educator Institute in Albany in July. The institute was sponsored by WhyMaker and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). For information about upcoming K-12 workshops and clean energy resources go to [www.whymaker.com](http://www.whymaker.com).

before earning their masters in literacy. The graduate students took part in a summer reading program that Kimbark facilitated to tutor children at the Newburgh Armory Unity center in literacy.

### Local History

AHS social studies teacher Robert McHugh is giving a talk at the Millbrook Historical Society's monthly meeting on September 21 at 7pm at Millbrook Library. All are welcome to attend to hear about the Anthony family, a Black family whose life in Millbrook from the late 1800's on has been uncovered through artifacts.

### Literacy

Fourth grade teacher Brian Kimbark (BES) taught a graduate course for Mount Saint Mary College during the month of July. This was the graduate students' final class

**Social Studies**

AHS social studies teacher Lauren Collet-Gildard (pictured second row from top, third from right, with American University students) is a part-time visiting professor at Bard College. This summer she worked with students in Kyrgyzstan as part of a relationship that Bard has with their university. She describes:

“The American University of Central Asia, located in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, offers an MAT program to English teachers in the region, and graduates acquire a Master’s degree in teaching with a concentration in either literature, mathematics, or social studies. For the last three years I have worked remotely as a supervisor for these students, and guided them as they conducted their own empirical research, and this summer I was invited to work with the program in person.

As we closed our school year at Arlington on a Friday, I had only two days to prepare for my journey to Kyrgyzstan, by way of Istanbul. This small country is located deep in Central Asia, and lies along the ancient Silk Road in the Tian Shan Mountains. I learned quite a lot about the local population and culture, with its

mix of Kyrgyz and Uyghur people, among several other ethnic groups from the surrounding areas. In addition, there has always been an existing population of Russians due to its former ties to the Soviet Union, but only recently has this population increased; those who are opposed to the war with Ukraine look to wait out the conflict in a friendly and inexpensive place.

While I was in Bishkek, I taught a five-day module on social studies methods, and we centered our discussion on what we mean by social studies. As students worked on lesson plans that could incorporate social studies into their language lessons, I learned a great deal about the history of Kyrgyzstan, and the shared values of my students. In addition, I had several students from Afghanistan, and

others from neighboring Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. The conversations around history and culture were robust, and we had many heated debates about the state of education in each of the countries, and each of these students’ efforts to connect with students.

If anyone is thinking about visiting Kyrgyzstan, they should absolutely take the opportunity. It is an absolutely beautiful country, with warm and interesting people. The food is incredible and there are many outdoor activities and cultural adventures to be had.”



Photo Courtesy Lauren Collet-Gildard

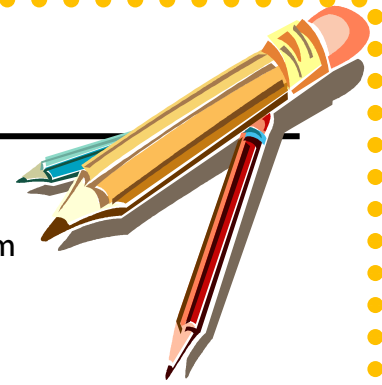


Photo Courtesy Kristy Zukswert

**Mission Work**

AHS science teacher Kristy Zukswert (pictured, fourth from right) reports: “Members from my church and I spent a week in Guatemala working with the organization, Living Water: Adopt a Child. The organization has operations both in Guatemala and Albania to help sponsor, feed, and provide medical & dental care to children in need, while also sharing the word and love of God. During our time in Guatemala our missions team fed, prayed for, and served upwards of 1,500 children, single mothers, and elderly over the course of 6 lunch programs at 5 different locations throughout Guatemala. In addition to the feeding programs, we donated numerous articles of clothing, shoes, and school supplies and had the privilege to sponsor children ourselves. This trip was truly life changing and was a testament to the transcending power of love and faith.

# Dates to Remember



## SEPTEMBER

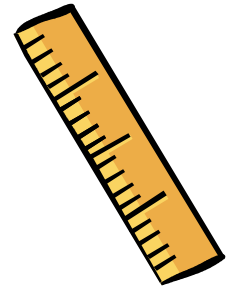
5th—ATA General Membership Meeting, 3:30p.m., AHS Auditorium

12th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TIS

19th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

25th—Yom Kippur—No School

26th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO



## OCTOBER

1st—Deadline to submit information for graduate or inservice credit

Deadline for using 2022-2023 Welfare Trust benefits

9th—Columbus Day/Indigenous People Day—No School

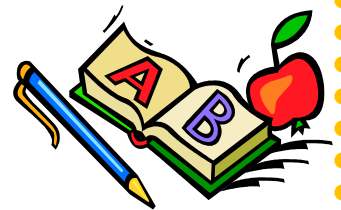
10th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., JDWR

17th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

20th—Professional Development Half Day

24th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

25th—Elementary School Half Day



# Announcements

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

Do you know something great that an ATA member has done recently? Perhaps they have done charity work, received an award, attended a conference, or even published a book. Let us know by scanning the QR code or going to this link:

<https://forms.gle/aGLYf3LWHqkP5gaS7>



*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: 9/19, 10/17, 11/28, 1/16, 2/27, 3/19, 4/16, 5/14, 6/18*

**Stay informed! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or check out [www.arlingtonteachers.com](http://www.arlingtonteachers.com) for forms, photos, calendars, and more.**