

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

April 1, 2021



John M. Abeigon

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Colleagues,

As we prepare for a well-deserved Spring Recess let us reflect on what we have gone through and what we may be returning to. Let us pray and give thanks to whatever our Higher Power is; kneel, turn towards Mecca, fast and pray, pray and weep, for weeping is often liberating.

Within a month of Lockdown 2020, the NTU had produced and posted over 10 Webinars on how to move from the real to the virtual. We taught many of you how to create your first bitmoji. While teachers in non-masking Cobb County, GA were fighting a losing battle against their school boards, we were getting as many titles as we could reassigned and a paycheck.

Teachers across the country have had to fight for safety protections and PPE. Here, in Newark, we have had the benefit of resolving Covid issues through, I dare say, the first reopening committee in the country. While others were passing out hot cocoa to despairing teachers in picket lines, we were distributing thousands of masks and face shields to our members, and the community, especially the homeless, Seniors and hospitals.

As we plan to return on April 12th we do so with 50% of our colleagues already fully vaccinated, 25% one-shotters and another 15% registered for their 2nd shot by Mid-May. [Student and staff testing will be done in the schools.](#) We have been allowed to enter our locations and do return preparedness checks and schedule rehearsals. Only 39% of students have opted to return.

When they tell me that the safest place in a community is the local school, I believe them. Schools are staffed with highly educated teachers, aides, clerks, and CST's, who know how to follow instructions and walk in a straight line. Of course, it's the safest place in a community.

So, I have no qualms about returning because I know if any district can do it and do it right, it's this district right here with our members. Safety people, it's going to have to be all about safety. Absolutely everything else comes in second place after safety. Compliance? Yes, right after safety.

When we and the students return, make sure that they remember that day as the happiest day of their lives. We've all been through a lot and so have they. Like millions of children around the world they'll be entering a schoolhouse, it will only feel like a prison if you make it one.

BREAKING NEWS!! 4/1/21—As you are aware NJ Regional Day School has been open for over a month. They also have been piloting the Covid "pool testing" that will be occurring throughout the district. The testing revealed one positive pool and the roster has been quarantined and the room sanitized as per CDC. The two adults in the classroom tested negative and the students, also out on quarantine, must produce a negative result before re-entry. The rest of the building remains negative.

In Solidarity,

John M. Abeigon

President/Director of Organization

Newark Teachers Union Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO

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2021 NTU Scholarships and Hall of Fame Inductees



The NTU Education Foundation is proud to announce its 2021 Albert Shanker Scholarship Awards and Hall of Fame Induction.

In 2019, twenty students received academic scholarships, including two Presidential Awards in the amount of \$2,500.00, four Executive Awards in the amount of \$1,750.00 and the rest in the amount of \$1,000.00.

This year, we will be inducting Steve Adubato into the NTU 2021 Hall of Fame posthumously, and Senator Ronald Rice will be receiving our NTU Legacy Award. Both men have a long history with the Newark Teachers Union and the city of Newark.

We are relying on your continued support and good will to continue this worthy endeavor. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (973) 643-8430 or e-mail ntuscholarshipawards@gmail.com.



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS
MONDAY, APRIL 26!**

**Click here for REVISED Scholarship
Application and Ad Journal Purchases**

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This weekend, the City of Newark is holding a Grants FAQ Session for Newark artists! You can register below!

**THIS SATURDAY: Grants FAQ Session,
4/3 at 11 am**

Grants FAQ Session

**Saturday, April 3, 2021
11 am**

Have questions about available grants for Newark artists?
Get them answered this Saturday!

**Creative Catalyst Fund
Newark Arts Emergency Fund
ArtStart**

[Register: newarkarts.eventbrite.com](https://newarkarts.eventbrite.com)

**NEW
ARK
ARTS**

CITY OF **NEWARK**
Mayor Ras J. Baraka

[REGISTER](https://newarkarts.eventbrite.com)

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Did you get your vaccine?

In our efforts to both promote the vaccine and instill confidence in our return to in-person instruction (for our visual learners), the NTU has produced buttons for NTU members who have gotten their vaccines! Send an email with your name, address, and proof that you are vaccinated (vaccine card or email confirmation) to sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com, and we will get one out to you!

SAVE THE DATE

- **Friday April 2 — Friday April 9—Spring Recess**
- **Tuesday, April 20 — NTU Executive Board Meeting—3:30 PM**
- **Wednesday, April 21 — Newark Board of Education Business Meeting—6:00 PM**
- **Tuesday, April 27 — Newark Board of Education Reorganization Meeting—6:00 PM**

Please note that April 1 and April 12 are the work days before or after a holiday. To ensure that you get paid for the holiday weekend, you must take a personal day if you are going to be absent on any of those days.

You can take a sick day on those days as long as it is part of an approved medical leave. Unless it is part of an extended FMLA, you must submit a medical certificate to NBOE Office of Administrative Services within 3 days of your return to work.

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MEMBER SERVICES

NTU Members should never hesitate to communicate with us by phone, email, etc regarding any of the issues we handle at the Newark Teachers Union.

- Planning for Retirement
- Pension & Buy Back Issues
- ER+D Staff Development
- Health and Supplemental Benefits
- AFT Membership Benefits
- FMLA and other leaves of absence
- Assistance with Evaluations and Observations
- Disciplinary Hearings
- Labor Relations & Payroll
- Legal Representation
- Workers Comp
- Tuition Reimbursement

Under the current situation, it is vital to stay informed! If you have changed your address, phone number, or location, please reach out to

sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com to let us know. Also, if you don't get our weekly updates, send an email to mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com to make sure you are on our mailing list.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NewarkTeachersUnion481/>) and Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/newark_teachers_union/?hl=en)

NTU Education Resource Center

Unfortunately, the NTU's Education Resource Center will not be available this school year. There was no way to reopen following CDC Guidelines. We will send out updates if and when the situation changes.

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

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Chris Canik

Ryan Sandor

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Larry Sullivan

Timothy Carr

Cassandra Talmadge

Donna Charles

Neil Thomas

John Cunha

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Josephine Donnellan

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Yvette Jordan

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