

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

January 21, 2022



President John M. Abeigon

jabeigon@newarkteachersunion.com

ATTENTION: AIDES AND CLERKS

A few days ago, we sent out a Petition from AFL-CIO asking staff in the PERS Pension System to help get their endorsed candidate Max Hurst the signatures he needs to get elected to the PERS Board of Trustees. We got several calls and emails from staff who weren't sure if they were in PERS or not, so we wanted to give a quick explanation.

In general, full time NTU members are covered by one of two different pension plans: PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) and TPAF (Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund). TPAF covers certificated staff (teachers, guidance counselors, CST's, administrators, etc), and PERS covers civil service positions (aides, clerks). When we are talking about PERS members, we primarily mean our aides and clerks. If you check your paystub, it will show if you are in TPAF or PERS.

Please click here and support Max Hurst by signing his petition. [Petitions must be in by 4PM February 7, 2022!](#)

Let's Get 'Em Tested!

We need to continue to push out Covid Testing Consent Forms! It is important that every parent gets them signed to get the students tested! The forms are available on SchoolMint, and print copies available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.



In Solidarity,

John M. Abeigon

President/Director of Organization

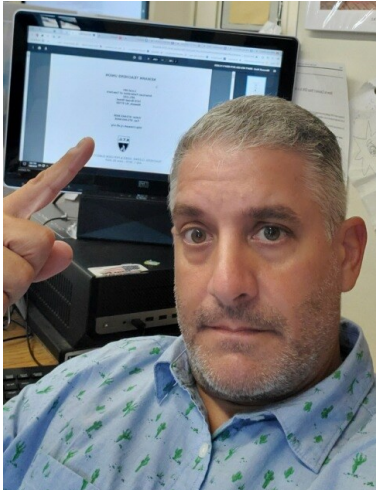
Newark Teachers Union Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO

jabeigon@newarkteachersunion.com

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From the Desk of the Secretary Treasurer



Michael R. Iovino

miovino@newarkteachersunion.com

IMPORTANT LESSON PLANNING UPDATE IN TEACHER TALK

Happy Friday all. I hope everyone had a safe and productive week back of full in-person instruction. During the two-week "reset" period, members of the NTU Executive Board and a team of administrators along with Dr. Reilly, from Teaching and Learning, met (virtually, of course) to review lesson planning. **Our** mission was clear. Restore the idea that plans are for the TEACHER; restore the idea that they are a guidance document, not a dissertation; and decrease the workload. Mission Accomplished!

What you see on Teacher Talk was shared with all administrators. It breaks planning into REQUIRED, ENCOURAGED, NOT REQUIRED. As you can see, what is required is minimal. What is encouraged, may be required on an individual basis based on observations, or CAP status. It should not be required otherwise.

We will review this guidance with the building reps to make sure they are aware of these changes. Now it's YOUR turn to make sure you have the necessary conversations with your administrators. This is a guidance document issued by Teaching and Learning under the directive of Supt. Leon. It must be followed. If any of your administrators decide to go against the directive of the Superintendent and continue to require nonsensical extra work in lesson planning, contact me ASAP at miovino@newarkteachersunion.com

In the words of President Abeigon: The Madness Stops Now!

Thank you to the team that worked on this on your behalf

- Michael Iovino NTU Secretary Treasurer
- George Bradshaw CTE Instructor Technology High School
- Ronnie D. Carney NTU VP
- Timothy Carr NTU VP
- Silvia Pereira NTU VP
- Marisa Rodriguez NTU VP

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Disney on Ice at Prudential Center

We are happy to report that almost 200 seats were purchased by NTU members for Disney on Ice using our "Unlock" code. Here are some pictures our members shared with us!



Chancie Armstrong
Ivy Hill



Jennifer Fay Bogar-Richardson
Barringer High



Desiree Flourney
Harriet Tubman School



Jazmin Puicon
Bard High



Patricia Rosario
Dr Horton School



Lyndsay Murphy
Oliver Street School



Mary Lindner
NJ Regional Day

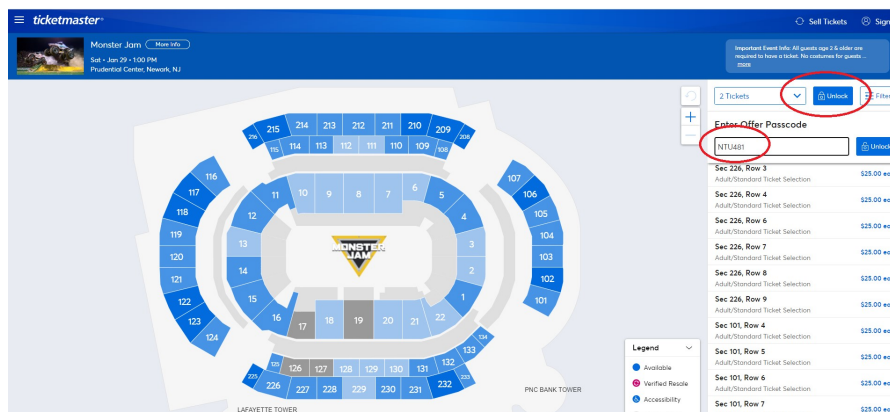


Susan Harrison
Luis Munoz Marin Middle School

Reminder! We also have Monster Jam tickets available!

- [Saturday, January 29th @ 1PM](#)
- [Saturday, January 29th @ 7PM](#)
- [Sunday, January 30th @ 1PM](#)

To access these tickets, click on the following Ticketmaster links and enter "NTU481" when you click the Unlock button. See below:



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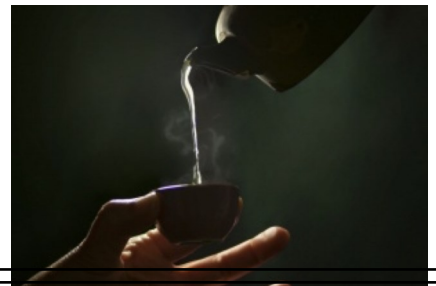
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AFT Share My Lesson: TEACHING Empathy + Using Art to Comfort, Inspire and Inform

[AFT's Share My Lesson](#) is a terrific platform where educators can find lesson ideas created by educators around the world and share their own. Here are some of their featured lessons:

[Student Voice during COVID-19: Photography, History and Memory During COVID-19](#)

Watch this webinar from the Global Oneness Project for strategies in which K-12 student photography projects can be integrated across art, history, English language arts and science.

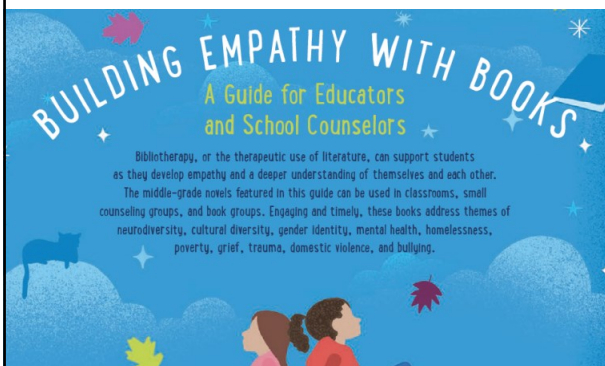


[Creating Art to Inspire and Comfort](#)

Are you using art, music or poetry in your teaching? Try this activity tapping the power of creating art to manage challenging situations through the stories of two featured students.

[Assessing the Strength of Democracy](#)

Try this lesson to deepen students' understanding of a democracy, including a framework to assess the health of a democracy and make sense of news stories that report on democracies at risk.



[Teaching Empathy](#)

Have you tried bibliotherapy, the therapeutic use of literature? Get ideas on how to support students as they develop empathy and a deeper understanding of themselves and each other.

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Attention retirees!!

[Retired N.J. teachers can go back to work while collecting pension under new law](#)

By Kelly Heyboer | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Teachers who have been retired for six months or more may soon find themselves back inside a New Jersey classroom under a new law designed to help alleviate school staffing shortages brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gov. Phil Murphy signed legislation Tuesday that allows retired teachers and professional school staff members to continue to collect their retirement pensions while also getting a new salary if they temporarily fill “critical need” jobs in New Jersey schools.

“We must do everything in our power to ensure that our schools are staffed with qualified educators. With this law we can put our students first by allowing retired teachers and staff members to return to our classrooms and schools without reenrolling in the Teachers’ Pension and Annuity Fund,” said a joint statement issued by Assemblywomen Mila Jasey, D-Essex, and Pamela Lampitt, D-Camden, and Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, D-Hudson, co-sponsors of the bill.

The new law applies to any retired teacher or professional staff member, including speech language specialists or therapists. They can get jobs in school districts for the remainder of this current school year and the 2022-2023 school year.

Under the new law:

- If the retired employees return to work at their former school district, at least 180 days must have passed since their departure.
- The retired teacher or staff member can work under a one-year contract, which can be renewed for a second year.
- The retired employee can not work for more than two years, “unless so approved by the Commissioner of Education as being in the best interests of the school district.”
- The former employees must have “a bona fide retirement” and can not make a pre-arranged deal with their school districts to retire and return in a few months in order to collect both their pension and a new salary.

Retired teachers could return to their old jobs, if they are deemed “critical need” posts, or take positions in new districts, under the new rules.



NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

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NTU Executive Board

- [Tuesday, January 25, 2022](#)
- Tuesday, February 22, 2022
- Tuesday, March 22, 2022
- Tuesday, April 26, 2022
- Tuesday, May 24, 2022
- Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Under the NTU Constitution, Executive Board Meetings are open to the membership, except for when they are in Executive Session. [Currently, the NTU is doing virtual meetings, so we are asking members who wish to attend the meetings to fill out the attached information,](#) and we will send you a link to the meeting.

All requests must be in by close of business on the day before the meeting (for our January 25 meeting, that means all requests must be in by 5:00 PM on Monday, January 24).

For security reasons, please use your NBOE email, and you must be an NTU member to receive a meeting link.

We will set aside some time at the end of the meeting for members who would like to address the Executive Board.

SAVE THE DATE

- Tuesday, January 25—NTU Executive Board Meeting, 3:45 PM
- Wednesday, January 26—NTU Building Rep Meeting, 3:45 PM
- Tuesday, January 25—NBOE Business Meeting, 6:00 PM
- Thursday, January 27—NBOE Regular Meeting, 6:00 PM

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Free At-Home Covid Tests



Earlier this week, the White House announced that anyone can get four free at-home COVID tests shipped directly to their home.

All you need to do is put in your address. Either link below will work.

<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

Are you receiving Educator Express, the weekly AFTNJ e-newsletter? Sign up for it today by sending your preferred email address to: cjunior@aftnj.org

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2022 NTU Hall of Fame and Shanker Scholarship Awards

The NTU Education Foundation is proud to announce our **24th Annual Albert Shanker Scholarship Awards**.

In 2021, twenty-five students received academic scholarships from the NTU, including seven Presidential Awards in the amount of **\$2,500.00**, six Executive Awards in the amount of **\$1,750.00** and twelve in the amount of **\$1,000.00**.

Scholarships are available for paraprofessionals, Newark students, and the children of our members. The Application is below. The deadline is Monday, April 25, 2022.

You can support these fine young people and hardworking paraprofessionals by becoming a scholarship sponsor, placing an ad for your business in our Publication Journal, or publishing a personal message.

If you require additional information or forms, they can be downloaded at the Newark Teachers Union Home Page <http://newark.nj.aft.org/>

- [Scholarship Application](#)
- [2022 Sponsor Letter](#)
- [2022 Ad Journal Form](#)
- [2021 Ad Journal](#)

Essex-West Hudson Labor Council Scholarships

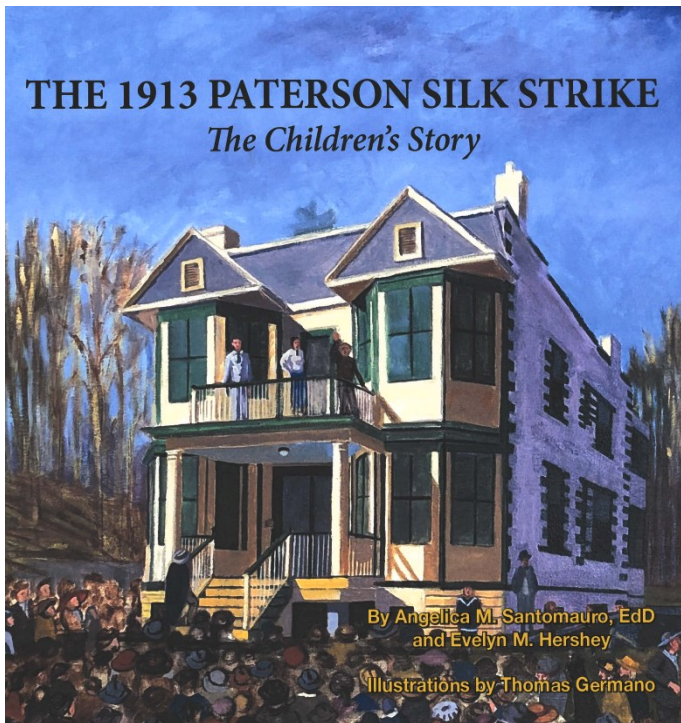
Every year, the Essex-West Hudson Labor Council gives out scholarships to the children of the affiliated unions. This year, 10 \$1000 scholarships will be awarded!

[Please use the linked application, the deadline is April 15, 2022!](#)

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Keep an eye out!



The American Labor Museum donated copies of “The 1913 Paterson Silk Strike: The Children’s Story” for Newark’s 4th Grade classes. We sent 4 copies over to each Building Rep (or School Clerk in buildings without Reps) at the Elementary Schools to distribute to the 4th grade teachers in their buildings. You should receive them in the next few days. If you need more copies because your school has more than four 4th grade classes, send an email to sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com.

The [American Labor Museum](http://www.labormuseum.net) is open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 1:00 PM—4:00 PM. There are coupons for free admission and discounts from the gift shop on their website.

American Labor Museum

**83 Norwood Street
Haledon, New Jersey
(973) 595-7953**

www.labormuseum.net



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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)

If you are not an NTU member, make sure you fill out a membership application on our website!

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

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