

OCTA Advocate

A newsletter for members, retired members, friends and supporters of the Oswego

Classroom Teachers Association

March 2019



Why Teacher-Student Relationships Matter

New findings shed light on best approaches

By [Sarah D. Sparks](#)

March 12, 2019

Students spend more than 1,000 hours with their teacher in a typical school year. That's enough time to build a relationship that could ignite a student's lifetime love of learning—and it's enough time for the dynamic to go totally off the rails.

Education watchers have long known that the relationship with a teacher can be critically important to how well students learn. But emerging research is giving a clearer picture than ever of how teachers can build and leverage strong relationships with their students.

"People sometimes mistake a kind of casual familiarity and friendliness for the promotion of really deep relationships that are about a child's potential, their interests, their strengths, and weaknesses," said Mary Helen Immordino-Yang, a cognitive neuroscientist at the University of Southern California who studies the effects of emotions and mindsets on learning.

"A lot of teachers ... have really strong abilities to engage socially with the students, but then it's not enough," she said. "You have to go much deeper than that and actually start to engage with students around their curiosity, their interests, their habits of mind through understanding and approaching material to really be an effective teacher."

In a forthcoming longitudinal study with Bank Street College of Education, Immordino-Yang is tracking how the highly effective teachers of low-income students set classroom norms and feelings of trust and safety for students—but also leverage that foundation to promote students' deeper thinking and engagement. →→ [\(Read the Rest CLICK HERE!\)](#)

OHS Musical Directors in the March OCTA Spotlight!



Robert Dumas' choirs at OHS are exceptional. He has truly raised and set the bar for excellence in the music program. He has an incredible vision for the growth of the choir program and music program overall. He is a compassionate teacher who continually gives everything to his students and colleagues. In his spare time he is also the team leader of the music department. At the secondary level in particular, he has truly helped develop a synergy among the entire music department.

Garrett Heater is an incredibly talented person. He has a passion for the theatre and it's where he has truly excelled. Besides being an outstanding choir director at Fitzhugh Park elementary school, Garrett has written several musicals for his students

based on topics and ideas that they have created together. It's an incredibly awesome collaborative process between the students and Mr. Heater.

Together as Co-Directors of the OHS Musical is where both of these men have truly excelled. They have raised the level of performance, creativity, and enhanced the overall product of the OHS Musical. Together with the help of our theatre tech crew under the leadership of Steve Braun and TJ Bandla, a wonderful synergy has been developing. It is nice to be behind the scenes to see how all of these people come together to put on such an outstanding production each year. Oswego is lucky to have each of them as faculty members.

Congratulations, Robert and Garrett! Enjoy the OCTA spotlight ---you earned it!!

Do you know an OCTA member who works hard at what they do? Someone who always seems to have positive energy? Do you know an OCTA member who deserves to be in the SPOTLIGHT? Then nominate them to be cast in March's OCTA spotlight!!! This new section of the newsletter and website will highlight one (or more) OCTA member(s) per month. Send the candidate's name, along with a brief description of what makes them special to drose@oswego.org.

OCTA Officer Elections in May!!!!

Want to get actively involved in the OCTA? Feel like you could make a difference?

All enrolled, active OCTA members are eligible to run for three OCTA



officer positions up for election this year: Negotiations Chair - Kim LeRoy, Internal Public Relations / Newsletter - Dan Rose, and OCTA Treasurer - Mike Patane. Elections will take place during the month of May. All positions are filled for a two-year term (September 2019-June 2021).

Please see your building president if interested in running or email drose@oswego.org for more information.



Important 2018 Tax Information!!!

Please keep your Dec. 20, 2018 pay stub and look at the OCTA 28+ for your 2018 dues total. Also, when the district sends out your W-2 forms this month, your dues withholding will also be on the form. Amounts will vary based on full time, part time, TA, date of hire, leave of absence . . etc. Full time employees for 2018 = \$841.03

Submitted by OCTA Treasurer, Mike Patane

Want to get involved? Interested in retirement and the NY State Teachers' Retirement System? Become an OCSD Retirement Delegate (or alternate)!

Retirement Delegates from all New York State districts meet at the NYSTRS annual convention in Saratoga Springs, NY each year. If you become a OCSD retirement delegate, you will be expected to attend this annual meeting and become well versed in the areas of retirement and retirement related issues.



Delegates serve a 2 year term. Elections happen every odd year and must take place from March 1- June 1. Names must be submitted by July 1. Please send your name along to drose@oswego.org if you are interested in this important position.

March 11, 2019

To: OCSD Faculty & Staff

Re: Retirement

From: Heidi Sweeney, Executive Director of Secondary Education & Personnel

Please note that information regarding retirement can be found in all bargaining unit contracts.

The retirement letter template is available in the Personnel Office Teamdrive, in the Personnel forms folder, then in each of the bargaining unit folders (Sample Retirement Letter). Directions and relevant information are included, as well as the letter template.

There is a 90 day notification requirement and letters should be submitted to the Personnel Office. Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Thinking of retiring? Click on the link below for the retirement letter template

[Retirement Letter Template](#)

Thank You from OCTA Scholarship!

The OCTA Scholarship received \$2526 in payroll deductions for this fundraiser! Thank you to all who took the time to contribute!! The OCTA awards scholarships yearly to deserving students throughout the Oswego City School District. Stay tuned for this year's winners!!



SAVE THE DATE!!

**Annual OCTA VOLLEYBALL
tournament, 2019 Edition!!!**

Where? Cheap Seats

When? June 21

Are you going? YES!!!!

MARY KAY®

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**Mother's Day MARY
KAY Friends and
Family discount!**

**Orders due by April
30th!
30% off all orders.
NO TAX
NO SHIPPING
Order online at**



**www.marykay.com/mrspatane - be sure to identify the building you work in.
If you email orders to cpatane@oswego.org, be sure to include product name,
color, price, and building you work in.**



**The grand total from our recent Jean
Week is \$1890.**

**Your generosity is very much appreciated!
We will be able to feed almost 24 students.**



**Many thanks for your continued support. It is
only with your help, and the help of this
community, we are able to feed 300 students, every weekend, in our district.**

**Sincerely,
Missy Russell**



Legal Service Plan

NYSUT members have access to dozens of endorsed programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality legal and financial planning assistance services that can help to protect their loved ones and provide them with peace of mind.



For an annual fee, the **Legal Service Plan** -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free advice from plan attorneys.



Financial Counseling Program

Meanwhile, the **Financial Counseling Program** -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides you up with to six hours of toll-free phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

And unlike with purchasing products available to the general public, there's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back. Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

Whether you are participating in one of our legal or financial services; insurance plans; or shopping, travel or entertainment offerings, NYSUT members have the **"Power of the Union"** behind them.

A wealth of financial information -- Now available on the NEW Member Benefits website

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

2018-2019 Professional Development Recommendations

It was requested at our OCTA Rep Assembly meeting that we survey our members about potential professional development offerings.

Please fill out the information below as completely as possible as you identify professional development opportunities you would like to see offered. This will stay open throughout the remainder of the year and will be brought to the EDC for consideration. Submissions are due the last Friday of each month in order for them to be brought forward in a timely fashion.

[Follow this link to submit!!](#)

Have you visited the OCTA website yet? What are you waiting for!!!?

While navigating the OCTA WEBSITE you can:

- Access and read the current [OCTA CONTRACT](#)
- Look up your current [Building President \(and reps\)](#)
- Access the new [OCTA RESOURCE GUIDE](#) - a document full of information that OCTA members WANT and NEED to know
- Access [BOARD OF ED MINUTES and AGENDAS](#)
- Access ALL your benefit accounts including [dental, health and retirement](#)
- View current and past [NEWSLETTERS](#)
- View recent [OCTA photos and read Thank You letters](#) written in response to OCTA donations or volunteer work

Please follow the link to visit the Member Action Center (MAC).

<https://mac.nysut.org/issues> Our schools need additional state funding. The OCSD needs to get the state aid it deserves! The budget needs to be approved by the Governor who is refusing to sign a budget without a permanent tax cap which will devastate public schools.

Find a list of actionable items here and take action!!! (I post these on our OCTA facebook page too on occasion, so hopefully you are a member of our OCTA FB group.)

NYSUT MEMBER BENEFITS
MAP 
 MEMBER ALERT PROGRAM

PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT

It's time to protect public employees from special interest harassment.

In the wake of the 2018 Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court decision, special interest groups have used publicly-available personal information of municipal and school district employees to wage an anti-labor campaign to harass union members and undermine worker protections. It's time to protect public workers from this harassment.

Take action now at the NYSUT Member Action Center to ask lawmakers to prevent an employer from releasing a public employee's personal contact information!



OCTA Advocate is published by the Oswego Classroom Teachers Association, West 1st Street, Oswego, NY. **President:** Carrie Patane, **VP Grievance:** Kim LeRoy **VP Negotiations:** Gretchen Coakley **VP Political Action:** Jenn Cahill, **VP Newsletter:** Dan Rose, **Secretary:** Michelle McManus, **Treasurer:** Mike Patane. Affiliated with the New York State United Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

