



The Voice

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HDTA on the web

Hartdistrictteachers.org

[HDTA Facebook Page](#)

[HDTA on Twitter @HartDTA](#)

[CTA Website](#)

[NEA Website](#)

[HDTA Updates via MailChimp](#)

Helpful Links

[CTA Instruction & Professional Development](#)

A plethora of resources to assist teachers with classroom instruction.

CTA-sponsored website that gives members tools to plan their financial future.

Hart District Teachers of the Year Honored

The most delightful school board meeting each year is the night that the Hart School Board honors the teachers chosen by their peers on each campus to represent them as the Teacher of the Year. It is a brief ceremony but it is heartfelt. I wish you all had been there to see them receive their certificates! Please join me in once again honoring these wonderful teachers who bring skill, passion, and joy to their classrooms each and every day. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them on campus.

Robert Walker, Academy of the Canyons
Jonathan Nez, Arroyo Seco Junior High School
April Soria, Bowman High School
Alexis Crane, Canyon High School
Julie Huffman, Golden Valley High School
Paula Bae, Hart High School
Kathleen Clare, Hart @ Home
Chris Rippe, La Mesa Junior High School
Frank D'Elia, Placerita Junior High School
Tami Pearsall, Rancho Pico Junior High School
Crystal Hilstein, Saugus High School
Patricia Hibbert, Sequoia School
Rebecca Skye Ostrom, Sierra Vista Junior High School
Brian Stiman, Valencia High School
Ron Manalastas, West Ranch High School
Stella Theuer, Golden Oak Adult School

And the Hart District Teacher of the Year is Julie Huffman, Golden Valley chemistry teacher. Julie is also one of 16 teachers being considered for Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year. We wish her well and hope that she "brings home the gold."

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Negotiations Update

By now all should have heard that the trigger language put into the HDTA contract last year regarding a potential one time, off schedule bonus has been pulled. The language of Article 19.1 relates specifically to the unaudited actuals of our school district's unrestricted General Fund budget and an agreement that would direct funds to the unit members should certain budgetary criteria be in place. All current members of HDTA's bargaining unit will be receiving a 1/5% off schedule bonus in the near future.

In other negotiations news, our team is waiting to return to the table until all the unaudited actuals of the unrestricted General Fund have been analyzed and broken down so that they can work from a point of knowledge. Since we are in the middle of a three year contract, we will go to the table to reopen discussions on salary and benefits, three issues of concern to HDTA, three issues of concern to the District, and an unlimited number of mutually agreed upon concerns. As always, this is not necessarily a speedy process and we ask your patience as the negotiations move forward. Our team of negotiators are skilled and are committed to achieving the best possible settlements for our members.

CAASPP Test Scores Released

The topic of many conversations here at the opening of the new school year has been the much-anticipated CAASSP Test results. Preliminary results were shared at the September 9 School Board meeting and the initial reports for the Hart District looked good. The overall results will be broken down and analyzed as the fall progress and we will see more data being shared. One of the things that HDTA leadership has been encouraging the district to take into consideration in analyzing last years' results and in planning for next spring's testing is the different manners and timeframes used across the district so that we can optimize our testing time. Below is a reprint of an article from CTA with some important information about this year's test results:

The California Department of Education (CDE) [released results](#) for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades 3-8 and 11.

You can view the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results at <http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/>. The site is multi-functional, providing drop-down menus displaying results by state, county, district and school-level, and by various student groups (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, English learners, and socioeconomic status).

Key to remember:

- These are just one set of test scores and the true measurement of student achievement is always done through multiple measures and can never

focus on one test score. As an educator, you have a better sense of how your students are doing through all the work going on in your classrooms. And it's important to have those conversations with parents.

- These test scores reflect the first full year of implementation of the online Smarter Balanced tests aligned to new California Standards and set new baseline scores. California basically hit the restart button on statewide assessments and these results cannot be compared to previous statewide assessments.
- The new standards are still being implemented for students and educators. As you are experiencing firsthand, all textbooks aligned to those standards have not been approved by the state and are not even available to students, educators and schools.
- We're implementing a new school funding formula that focuses on local involvement and control. And we're still transitioning to rigorous new learning standards that require students to develop critical-thinking skills needed for college and careers. Educators, parents and local community members need to continue to work together to ensure students have the resources they need to succeed.

Results for the overall scores are reported as: Standard Exceeded, Standard Met, Standard Nearly Met, or Standard Not Met. Results specific to the Claims will be reported as: Above Standard, At or Near Standard, or Below Standard.

Educators should have access to individual student scores through their school district.

Parents will receive individual [Student Score Reports](#) in the mail within 20 business days of the district receiving them. Mailing of Student Scores Reports to districts started on August 17.

The CDE developed multiple resources for parents to understand the new assessments and the results. [Parent Guides](#) are available online that provide: subject- and grade-specific sample questions, sample items explaining academic standards being addressed, and the kinds of questions students must answer correctly to reach each achievement level.

Quick Links:

CTA Media Statement: <http://www.cta.org/About-CTA/News-Room/Press-Releases/2015/09/20150909.aspx>

CAASPP Website: <http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/>

Sample Student Score Report:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/caaspp15scorerpt.pdf>

Parent Resources: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/index.asp?tabsection=3#ssr>

Downloadable Brochure for Educators, Parents and Community Members:
https://d112vpovu2xa8r.cloudfront.net/portal_embracethecore_curatasite_com/media/4f9b590ce3954ec51e234bceefb64a02.pdf

CTA Disaster Relief Fund

For all the sunniness I try to bring to my life and my world, I do sometimes worry about things. One of the things I am always prepared for is an earthquake. Yes, I have all the requisite supplies ready for the next big shake. I also donate to the CTA Disaster Relief Fund each month. Not a huge amount but a bit to help out my fellow teachers should they find themselves hit by a California wildfire, an earthquake, or an El Nino winter flood and suffer significant loss because of these natural disasters. If you would like to prepare yourself for these eventualities or to donate so that other teachers may be helped out in a disaster, CTA Disaster Relief Fund is the place for you. Log into www.cta.org and follow the link to Life Events and choose Disaster Relief Fund.

President's Message

Welcome to the 2015-16 school year! I hope that your new year is off to a good start and that your summer break was a restorative one. We have welcomed at least 71 new folks to our ranks this fall. Please reach out to the new members of your staffs and make certain that they feel welcome! Remind those who may have won "Lunch with the President" at the new teacher lunch that they can order up their lunch when they are ready and it will be delivered!

At each School Board meeting, there is an agenda item that affords me the chance to speak with the Board about matters of concern or the issues of the day. Let me share here what I shared with them on Wednesday night:

"Good evening, Board members and district office personnel: Change and growth and stretching are all good things that can come with some discomfort. Our district is dealing with some of these things and there will be some discomfort. However, the end results should be focused on what is good for our kids. A perfect example of this was last evening. I was at Saugus for back to school night and I had to laugh because Mrs. Painter was so excited about the prospects of new construction beginning on the long-awaited theater building and others were worrying about the potential disruption to the campus. It is all about perspective! The final result will be a great new space for students.

We have other growth processes going on. School teams are beginning their lesson studies and are stretching themselves as instructors and collaborators to

hone their skills in the art of teaching and bring greater depth to the classrooms. I am particularly impressed by the majority of the folks who are working to find solutions to sticky problems. It is fairly easy for an English department at a school to work through a new lesson study but how does an elective department full of singleton classes do this? The elective department at Placerita is approaching it by working on literacy in the classroom; so, the diverse group of music, dance, Spanish, art, and foods teachers are going to collaborate on how to incorporate more literacy into their lessons to improve reading and writing skills. What a way to stretch their boundaries!

Teachers across the district are stretching and growing this year. Crowded classrooms and shared classrooms have caused folks to look for creative solutions for sharing space and time. We have worked through issues with master schedules and are learning to adjust our days. We are continuing to punt on those days when our materials don't arrive from the DCC and the copiers on campus have crashed. That is an on-going concern that will be addressed in the near future.

Tonight we met some of the best the Hart School District has to offer as we celebrate our 2015 teachers of the year. What a delightful group of educators! I love that they are chosen by their peers as the exemplary teachers on their campuses since we really do know what it takes to shine in the classroom.

And, lastly, I want to thank our negotiations team for their hard and innovative work they did last year. Through their efforts, our members will be receiving a one time off schedule bonus in the near future. While it isn't an on-going raise, it is a positive step forward and I look forward to the gains and strides that will be achieved in this year's negotiations. As we know, change and growth can be uncomfortable but the end results are always good."

Well, my colleagues and friends, I will leave you with wishes for a great year. Know that I continue to work diligently on your behalf and I am always ready and willing to hear from you if you have a concern, a worry, a positive that you would like to share.

Sincerely,
Jayme Allsman
HDTA President

