

## In This Issue

- Teachers of the Year
- Facebook Status
- Copier Contract
- Before School Starts
- Member Benefits
- President's Message

## HDTA on the web

Hartdistrictteachers.org

HDTA on Twitter  
@HartDTA

[www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org)

[www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

HDTA Updates via  
MailChimp

## Helpful Links

CTA Instruction &  
Professional  
Development

***A plethora of resources  
to assist teachers with  
classroom instruction.***

CTA Invest  
***CTA-sponsored website***

## T.O.Y.s: Our Annual Elite

At the end of the spring semester, we have an annual ritual – the choosing of our Teachers of the Year from across the district. It is always a varied and amazing group of instructors who are making a difference in the lives of their students and having a positive impact on their staffs. It is a delight to be present at several different events to hear about their accomplishments and to see them honored by various groups. This year's group is again a gathering of the best and brightest from across our ranks. Join me in congratulating the schools' Teachers of the Year and the district's Teacher of the Year. They are fine examples of what is good and admirable about our profession.

Brant Botton – Saugus High, English

Jose Rosales – Bowman High, Math

Kellie Kontis – Sierra Vista, History

Kezban Mansilla – LaMesa, Science

Peggi Stoffel – Rancho Pico, Music

Mallory Howe – Placerita, History

Joshua Stimac – Golden Valley High, Social Studies

Ron Kasdorf – Canyon High, English

Eve Itaya – Valencia High, English

Julie Chang – West Ranch High, Science

Jennifer Klipfel – Arroyo Seco, Science

Kristen Shaw – Rio Norte, Math

Tammy Werth – Learning Post, Indep. Study

Jerry Malkowski – Academy of the Canyons, Social Studies

Laura Lopez – Sequoia School, English

Michael Ehrhart – Golden Oak Adult- H. S. Diploma

The District's Teacher of the Year is Sarah Avanesian from Hart High. She is an English teacher and will be representing our district in the Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year competition and hopefully at the California State Teacher of the Year competition. Good luck, Sarah!

*that gives members tools  
to plan their financial  
future.*

**Contact Us**

26111 Bouquet Cyn  
Rd

Suite H-5

Santa Clarita, CA  
91355

661.255.0311

661.255.6404 fax

# Facebook Status....Fired: Perils of Social Media

By Tom Gavin, HDTA Webmaster

Many teachers are participants in social media outside of their working day. Too many of these teachers are having a hard time separating that life from their job. Here at HDTA we are concerned about these teachers and want to make sure that our members avoid potentially losing their job and/or credential. These reminders of scenarios where trouble can be found are good to keep in mind as you engage in the world of social media.

- Never “friend” your students until they are out of high school and/or over the age of 18. Many students lack the maturity to understand the boundaries between home and work. Anything that you do on the web that could be interpreted as questionable by a parent or community member could be reported to the school district or straight to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing with electronic proof. The electronic proof (pictures, text, video etc.) will, of course, be deprived of any background information to the situation that may have made it acceptable. Once accusations are put forth to the public it is very difficult to pull them back in.

<https://www.cta.org/en/Professional-Development/Publications/2014/04/April-2014-Educator/Facebookprivacy.aspx>

- Do not post or allow friends to post your whereabouts on a day where you are legally supposed to be at work. If you call in sick or use a personal necessity day to vacation, you are subject to disciplinary measures. You had to sign a form when you returned that indicated that you were unable to work that day. If a picture shows up on social media on that same day with you at a theme park or lounging by a hotel pool, there is now evidence of fraud on your part. You may in fact be forcing the hand of your supervisor if they are presented with this evidence, especially if it comes from their supervisor.

<http://jacksonville.com/business/2015-01-06/story/work-wanted-too-sick-work-dont-broadcast-it-facebook#>

- Do not post anything on social media while you are supposed to be working. The posts are generally timed. Unless you are at lunch or brunch your job is to teach. If you are having a long-running conversation online that is not school related, you are also leaving a trail of non-working records.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/12/07/143264921/friendly-advice-for-teachers-beware-of-facebook>

- Do not post or allow friends to post any activities or localities that you are a part of unless it is something that someone under the age of 18 could legally participate in. As teachers, we never want to be in a position where the recording of our celebrating in adult situations, legal or not, could be seen by teenagers as promoting that activity. Right or wrong we are seen as examples to young people whether we are working or not.

<http://www.nea.org/home/38324.htm>

- Do not allow the districts electronic devices in your possession ever be used

to connect to anything that requires you to be over 18 to legally participate in. The ipads and computers that we use to instruct our students are tools the districts provides for our use. They are not benefits or presents that we are allowed to use. Each device has the potential to be overseen by district personnel. Use of the devices in a manner that violates the district directives is punishable.

- Do not post anything that harasses in any manner students that you have now or ever had. Do not create or respond to anything online that imperils the physical or emotional safety of your charges. For example:  
<<http://www.northjersey.com/news/north-jersey-teachers-learn-social-media-s-traps-the-hard-way-1.1336656>>

## District Approves New Contract for Copiers

After months of frustration on the part of our teaching staff, help is on the way. At the September 21 meeting, the Hart District School Board approved a contract with a new vendor to provide copiers, printers, and copier service to the district. Mr. Hall, our School Board president, was firm in his support of having a solution to this copier issue found sooner rather than later. The new company, American Business Machines (ABM), is a locally based company which utilizes Canon products and is eager to help us make the switch to the new system. From the first moment that ABM was in the picture, the key players reached out to HDTA leadership to meet with us and determine how best to work with the Association.

Please be patient as this transition happens. There will be some bumps and growing pains but the end game should be beneficial. Trainings and instructions will be given to us so be looking out for those announcements.

---

## 4 Things Teachers Should Do Before School Starts

by [California Casualty](#) ||

For many teachers, the beginning of the school year is both exciting and overwhelming. In the final few weeks of summer, their minds are racing with thoughts of lesson plans, class rosters, assessments, Back-To-School Night, and classroom set up. Before you dive into your classroom theme or your new reading corner, consider the following items as you prepare the upcoming school year:

### 1. Tackle Your Personal “To Do” List

Seemingly small tasks can become a burden during the hectic school year. Do

yourself, and your family, a favor by taking care of these things before you head back to school. Get household affairs in order: make doctor/vet appointments for all members of the family, finish incomplete summer projects, and tackle any needed car or home maintenance. It would also be a good time to evaluate your personal finances – including your auto and home insurance. Check out the “Get a Quote” box to the right. You might be able to save some serious money!

Fewer items on your personal/family “To Do” list means more time to grade papers and plan lessons, right?

## **2. Plan Ahead for Professional Development**

Once the school year has started, it may be difficult to switch from thinking about lesson plans, to thinking about your professional development. Many districts lack the funds to provide quality professional development opportunities to teachers. If this is true for you, check out the continuing education courses at your local university. Before the school year begins, enroll in coursework that will benefit you in your professional development. Some school districts may even have a tuition reimbursement program.

## **3. Re-establish Routines**

Make it a point to re-introduce daily routines before the school year begins. Many of us get used to a more relaxed routine during the summer months: bedtimes are later, mornings are less hurried, and brains take a break.

A week or two before school begins, introduce your usual routine. You can start slowly, or all at once. Create (and stick to) bedtimes, set morning alarm clocks, practice bathroom routines, and eat a healthy breakfast. Don’t forget to incorporate some reading time into that routine! Having a routine in place before heading back to school, for both teachers and students, helps ease the transition from summer to the school year.

## **4. Take a Moment for Yourself**

Take a day, a half-day, or even just an hour, before you head back to school for some “me” time. Lounge by the pool, give yourself a pedicure, get a haircut, watch a movie, or even have a spa day. Whatever your choice of leisure activity, squeeze in some time for yourself before diving into the new school year.

Cheers to a great new school year!

*Erin Randolph has taught elementary school in Louisburg, Kansas for eight years. She lives in Olathe, KS with her husband, a three-year-old son, and a two-year-old daughter (and a seven-year-old border collie).*

## Newest Addition to CTA Member Benefits Offers Popular Discount Program

CTA Member Benefits provides valuable and exclusive benefits to you, your family and your career. The newest addition is the Access to Savings discount program, which has been enjoyed by some of our state affiliates. Now, as a member of CTA, you can also enjoy this program.

With more in-store merchant locations than any other private discount program, Access gives you unparalleled value at places you shop every day. These are exclusive offers delivering deep discounts of up to 50 percent off restaurants, retailers, hotels, theme parks, entertainment, home and garden, health and beauty, auto service and many more.

To begin saving, go to [CTAMemberBenefits.org/Access](http://CTAMemberBenefits.org/Access). Once you have logged in, you can connect to the Access site and start enjoying your savings.

Also, you can get your deals on-the-go with your My Deals app by downloading it from the App Store or Google Play. Simply input your CTA Member number and the ID No. 200449. The My Deals app uses geo-location technology that pulls in deals based on your location. Whether you're in San Jose, Los Angeles, Honolulu or New York, you'll be given an automatic download of merchants near you.

Join members saving hundreds, if not thousands of dollars a year with CTA and NEA Member Benefits discounts and exclusive programs. Check out all the programs at [CTAMemberBenefits.org](http://CTAMemberBenefits.org) to make sure you are taking full advantage of the special programs available to you.

---

## Now Introducing: Life Services Toolkit<sup>1</sup>

As of September 1st, the Life Services Toolkit is available at no additional cost to those insured under a group Life Insurance policy from the only CTA-endorsed carrier – The Standard. Some of the services available to the plan participants through the Life Services Toolkit: **Estate Planning Assistance, Financial Planning, Health and Wellness Information, Identity Theft Prevention, and Funeral Arrangements.**

In addition, the Toolkit includes services for your beneficiaries: **Grief Support, Legal Services, Financial Assistance, Support Services (such as help with funeral or memorial services), and Online Resources.**

To learn more visit:

[www.standard.com/ctalifetimeservices](http://www.standard.com/ctalifetimeservices)

### **Don't have Life Insurance with The Standard?**

Life Insurance is a key part of any financial plan. The CTA-endorsed Life Insurance Plan from The Standard is designed to supplement your existing Life Insurance or help you start new coverage. CTA Members are eligible to apply at any time for up to \$400,000<sup>2</sup> in Life Insurance with The Standard.

### **Have Questions?**

If you're not sure which coverages you have with The Standard, or would like more information about our Life or Disability Insurance, simply call our dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 (TTY) 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, or email [ctaservice@standard.com](mailto:ctaservice@standard.com).

---

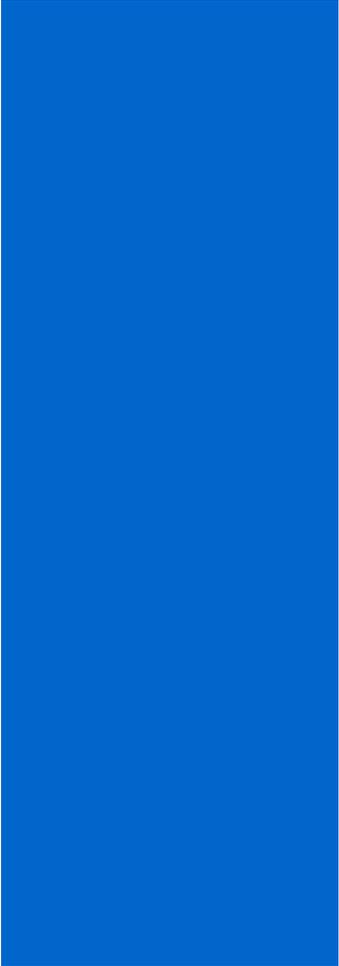
## **President's Message**

I sat in class this morning with my students and we were working on research papers together. One of the boys asked when the project was due. We grabbed our planners and everyone was a bit surprised to see that there are only eleven days until the end of the quarter. For high school folks, that is only half way through; for us in the junior high world, the end of the first quarter is big! Where has the time gone?

In this time, we have several large issues that we are addressing. The first is Prop. 55. Passing this proposition in November is vital to the financial health of our district and, subsequently, to our membership. Prop. 55 is the extension of the tax increases from Prop. 30. As you may recall, it is a .25% increase in the income on the wealthiest of Californians. It will not create new taxes; it will just maintain the status quo. In the past three years under Prop. 30, the Hart District has realized \$91,439,265 in new revenue. The money has helped to reduce class sizes, restore days to our calendar, and provide pay increases. To learn more about the importance of Prop. 55, please either speak with your building rep or visit [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) to read about it. A yes vote on Prop. 55 is a key vote this November!

We are in the middle of our move to SISC as our new health care company. I hope that you are finding the process not too cumbersome. I have appreciated the work by folks at the district and by John Ahart, our chief negotiator, as we have investigated this transition for almost two years. Please keep your eye on the timelines sent to us by the district office so that you don't miss the opportunity to take care of this business on your campus.

I hope you took a moment to read the above article by Tom Gavin regarding



social media issues. I think you will recall that my mantra last year was “don’t touch the children.” This year I am adding “don’t do dumb things on line – protect yourself!” We all have read and signed the acceptable use policy with the district. When we are at school or using district technology, we need to be within the parameters laid out in that policy. When we are on social media, we need to be self-protective. Please read Tom’s article and take his advice to heart. I don’t want you to have to meet one of our GLS attorneys because of an uninformed mistake.

Please remember that I think it is a privilege to be in service to the teachers of HDTA and I welcome your inquiries and requests for assistance.

Enjoy your Fall Break.

United,

Jayme Allsman  
President

---