

2025-2026, QUARTER 1

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1

CPTA + CHRONICLE

THE CARLE PLACE
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

Know Your Contract: Length of Workday

When do you need to arrive and when can you leave?

Know Your Rights: Academic Freedom

What does our NYSUT attorney have to say about our intellectual freedoms?

Tier 6

HOW BAD IS IT
REALLY?

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Featuring
Ms. Lora Elsirgany

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.CARLEPLACETA.ORG
(OR THE APP)

CPTA Chronicle

Quarterly Newsletter

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<https://www.carleplaceta.org/>

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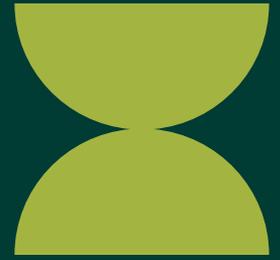
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UPCOMING EVENTS

A calendar with our local's events, neighboring locals' events, and school events



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear members,

Please enjoy the third installment of our CPTA Newsletter. As we all know, this fall has been marked with sadness and challenges that we have not faced before. As always, it was the members of the CPTA that kept the district humming, never missing a beat when it came to educating our students.

More importantly, we showed great compassion and passion for each other this fall, and our collective unity is stronger than ever. It is the CPTA that provides the constant in our ever-changing world of education; the fortitude we have as a group is unwavering and something we should all be proud of.

I would like to dedicate this issue of our CPTA Newsletter to our beloved colleague, Ro Hunter. Ro was a wonderful mother, wife, friend, colleague, and teacher. She truly loved her students and her Cherry Lane family. It is with great honor that we dedicate this issue to her and the legacy she left behind.

Enjoy the newsletter and have a wonderful holiday season!

All the best... always!
Mike

CPTA PRESIDENT

**“I would like to
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Beyond the Classroom

Featuring teachers who accomplish the impossible, who go above and beyond, who enrich the lives of our students and enhance our school culture regularly... and who are not always acknowledged for it.*

This edition features Ms. Lora Elsirgany, a 25th year Music teacher at Rushmore Avenue and Cherry Lane. Aside from her job of teaching, Ms. Elsirgany also serves the school by picking “up a lot of little roles that (she’s) noticed needed to be picked up.” She created a first name photo directory and birthday list for all staff in the building, including aides, BOCES staff, etc.. As she says, “I really feel that it’s important to be able to call everyone by their name and to make everyone feel welcome in this amazing place”. Additionally, Ms. Elsirgany is currently helping to lead a Leader In Me committee and organizes the Rushmore Select Orchestra.

One of Ms. Elsirgany’s 2024-2025 Accomplishments:

Ms. Elsirgany received a Long Island School Hero Award granted by the Long Island Coalition Against Bullying this October. She says, “I’m humbled that one of my student’s parents decided to nominate me for this award and I was so blessed to receive it with my administrators, coworkers, and my family by my side. It just goes to show that all the little things we do for our students, day after day, year after year do make a difference even when we ourselves may not see the impact they have.”



In Her Words:

Why do you choose to do so much for Carle Place?

I thank God all the time that I work in such a well-funded, supportive, beautifully maintained school with coworkers that lift me up and students that blossom with our caring guidance and encouragement. I really have a chance to make a positive impact in people’s lives in my role as a music teacher, and I can’t think of anything I would rather do than that!

What was your favorite memory/biggest accomplishment working beyond the classroom?

My favorite memories outside of the classroom are really connected to the beautiful personal connections I’ve made over the past two decades. They are the memories of attending NYSSMA in the evenings or on weekends with my students and their families, chatting with their parents about how I see a special talent in their child or seeing the student’s face when they recognize me as they walk down the hall in a strange high school, nervous for their audition but overjoyed to know that I am there just for them! The other favorite memories I have are from holiday or end of year staff parties at coworkers’ houses. Those are the BEST Rushmore parties! It really is like a second family here and a holiday house party certainly seals that deal!

What advice do you have for new teachers when it comes to getting involved?

Every experience in life is about what YOU make of it. You can go to a top-ranking university, but if you just attend your classes, study for the test and go home, you’ve missed out on so much. You can go to an average school and take every opportunity, network with colleagues and professors, join the sports teams, sing in the choir, do a study abroad program, and MAKE friends. You get out what you put in. Put your heart in it and you will get back more than you can imagine.



Know Your CONTRACT Length of Work Day

Teachers are expected to be in their classrooms AT LEAST five minutes prior to the start of class.

As we are obligated to be in our rooms during extra help, and obligated to stay for Monday meetings (or use that time professionally as per the MOA), this really only applies to Fridays. Before holiday breaks that begin midweek, therefore, do not apply.

1. The official length of the teacher's workday including duty free lunch shall not exceed 7 hours, with the exception of Monday. All teachers may leave as soon as pupils are dismissed on the last working day of each week.
2. Teachers and nurses shall be permitted to leave the building during the school workday provided that notification is given to the principal or his/her designated representative.
3. Parents shall not be deprived of any opportunity to confer with the teachers of their children because such conferences must be held outside the regular workday, but all parties concerned will strive to schedule such meetings during the teacher's workday.
4. These hours may be reduced in special circumstances by the school administration when necessary.

* Whenever you leave the building, even if it just for lunch, you are SUPPOSED to tell your building principal or the main office.

Note- Parents CANNOT come to your classroom door for an unscheduled meetings. As it is difficult to arrange meetings during the teacher's workday, phone calls are often utilized.

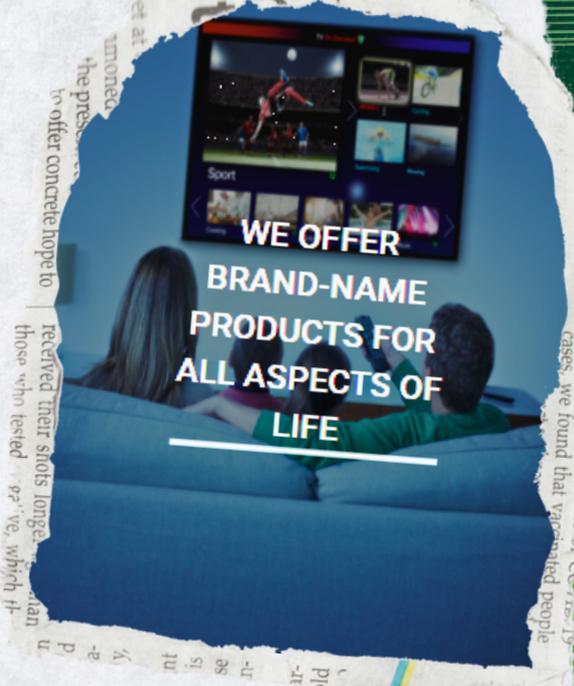
BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT

NYSUT MEMBER BENEFITS TRUST

Did you know that NYSUT offers free and discounted services for many everyday needs?

Savings & discounts for everyday life-

Membership opens up real savings on shopping, travel and everyday services. For instance, members can access a “Discounts & Deals” network where savings of up to 50 % are available at over 1 million locations and more than 18,000 deals across New York State. These savings apply to things like restaurant dine-in/take-out, groceries and food delivery, clothing, vehicle maintenance, movie/theme-park tickets, hotels/flights, car rentals and much more. Also, there are special programs for large purchases (appliances, furniture, major home purchases) and special travel-tour discounts. Always check out the NYSUT website before making a purchase to see how much you can save!



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

Legal, financial & wellness support-

Beyond insurance and discounts, membership provides access to specialized services that help with legal, financial, and wellness needs.

Protection & peace of mind-

As a member you have access to a broad suite of endorsed insurance and protection options. These include term life insurance, level-term life, universal life, long-term care insurance, disability insurance, auto and home insurance, dental and vision plans, pet insurance, and a Catastrophe Major Medical (CMM) supplemental health plan. In many cases members benefit from special negotiated group rates, and in some cases the premiums may be reduced by payroll or pension deduction.

A collage of images showing a woman and a child smiling, with text overlay: "WE OFFER PREFERRED RATES ON SAVINGS PRODUCTS". The background shows a woman in a blue shirt and a child in a yellow shirt, both smiling and looking at each other.

**WE OFFER
PREFERRED
RATES ON
SAVINGS
PRODUCTS**

Always check out the NYSUT website before making a purchase to see how much you can save!



CONGRATULATIONS!



If you know of a colleague's good news, triumphs, etc. PLEASE (PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE!!!) email splotkin@cps.k12.ny.us to have it featured here!

Engagements/Weddings

- HS- Kimberly Craig (née Sammon) and Jonathan Craig were wed June 28, 2025



Awards/Recognition

- RA- Lora Elsirgany has received the Long Island School Hero Award, presented by the Long Island Coalition Against Bullying
- CL- The school has been recognized as an iReady Stretch Growth school



Tenured

- N/A



Position/Title Changes

- CL- Beth Morrow took on the new role of instructional coach



Family Growth

- HS- Emily Ferreira and Mike Ferreira welcomed Margot Diane into the world on August 14th
- CL- Amanda Tavares is expecting to have a baby girl this April
- CL- Katelyn Fox will be having her one day very soon



Member's Family Achievements

- If you know of a colleague's good news, triumphs, etc. PLEASE email splotkin@cps.k12.ny.us to have it featured here!



Retiring

- N/A

Happy Retirement

Newly Hired

- Tyler Colosa
- Christina Costante
- Brookelyn Coyle-Romano
- Andrea Davis
- Michael Farruggia
- Katelyn Fox
- Margaret Hall
- Anne-Marie Krpata
- Brianna Pota
- Cassidy Pugatch
- Chloe Santos
- Annemarie Savage
- Samantha Stoffers
- Jessica Winter



The More You Know

Academic Freedom

Lena Ackerman, NYSUT's Assistant General Counsel, has created a series of webinars designed to educate teachers on our rights. To watch the full webinar that the following points came from, please click here-<https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/know-your-rights>.

- Academic freedom is the idea that teachers, researchers, and scholars should be able to pursue truth, teach their subjects, and publish ideas without undue interference.
- Freedom in research and publication- scholars can investigate controversial or unpopular areas without censorship.
- Freedom in the classroom- instructors have leeway to design curriculum, choose materials, engage students in debate, within their discipline.
- Academic freedom is not identical to general free speech: it has special features tied to the mission of education and research in universities.



Notable Takeaway

- If you're an educator or work in academia: It's important to understand how academic freedom supports the integrity of teaching and research.

Caveats and Obstacles

- Academic freedom is not an absolute license: With freedom comes responsibility (to the discipline, to students, to scholarship).
- The boundary between "teaching within discipline" and "teaching personal ideology" can become contested.
- Students' rights, diversity, equity, and institutional policies may sometimes constrain how academic freedom is operationalized.
- Institutions may have standards of professional conduct and scholarly rigor.



LOCAL NEWS

Retirement and Tier Six Workshop! October 9th, 2025

On Wednesday, October 9th, Eric Iberger, NYSTRS Teacher Trustee, hosted an informative workshop for Carle Place Teachers' Association members focused on retirement planning, with special attention to those in Tier 6.

Unlike earlier tiers, where employee pension contributions stopped after 10 years of service, Tier 6 members must contribute a percentage of their salary for their entire careers. These contributions range from 3% to 6%, depending on annual income- a permanent deduction that reduces take-home pay even in later years.

In addition, the pension multiplier- the formula used to calculate retirement benefits- is lower for Tier 6 members, resulting in smaller annual pensions even after decades of service. Tier 6 also raised the full retirement age to 63, compared to age 55 or 57 in earlier tiers, delaying when educators can retire without penalty. Many in attendance were surprised by the depth of the disparities. "I knew Tier 6 wasn't great," said one attending member, "but I didn't realize just how much worse it is than the earlier tiers. Seeing the numbers side by side was eye-opening."

The CPTA continues to support efforts by NYSUT and other unions to advocate for meaningful reforms to Tier 6 – aiming to restore fairness, ensure financial security for all educators, and strengthen the teaching profession for future generations.



Have an idea for our next group activity?
Have a suggestion for planning future events? Scan here and let us know!



CPTA Kicks Off the School Year with a Warm Welcome Back October 17, 2025

On Friday, October 17th, the Carle Place Teachers' Association held a Welcome Back Get-Together at the West End Café. Nearly 60 members from all three schools came together to celebrate the start of the new school year. The lively atmosphere, paired with delicious appetizers provided by the CPTA, made for an enjoyable afternoon of conversation and camaraderie.

"It was such a great way to start the school year," said one member. "It's always nice to reconnect with colleagues outside of school and share some laughs."

For new teachers, the event offered the perfect opportunity to feel part of the Carle Place family. "It was wonderful getting to know everyone and seeing the camaraderie among the staff," said one of the district's newest educators.

The CPTA looks forward to continuing this tradition and wishes all members a successful and fulfilling school year ahead.

NYSUT NEWS

(All articles originally written by NYSUT Media Relations. To see the full entries click here)



NYSUT Day at the Yankees brings out hundreds for fun-filled day at the ballpark

NYSUT celebrated its members with a special outing at Yankee Stadium on Sept. 7, hosting nearly 500 educators and their families for NYSUT Day at the Yankees. Union leaders, including President Melinda Person, Executive Vice President Jaime Ciffone, and Second Vice President Ron Gross, joined attendees as the Yankees edged the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3. Members enjoyed discounted tickets and free commemorative hats, with President Person emphasizing the importance of socializing and strengthening connections among union members. As part of a broader initiative, NYSUT plans to expand similar opportunities with other New York sports teams, offering more events and special member discounts in the future.

NYSUT members hail early successes of distraction-free schools

NYSUT's first statewide survey on New York's new bell-to-bell cellphone policy shows overwhelming support from educators, with 89.7 percent reporting positive changes in their schools. Teachers cited improved social interactions (77 percent), greater attentiveness (76 percent), and increased class participation (51.7 percent) since phones were banned during the school day. Many called it the "best start to a school year in a decade," noting calmer classrooms, better focus, and stronger student relationships. The transition went smoother than expected, with 82 percent saying enforcement has been consistent and 67.6 percent noting easy implementation. Educators also reported more time for instruction, easier classroom management, and higher job satisfaction. Parents, too, have voiced support for the policy's success in creating more engaged, connected learning environments.



Science of Reading: NYSUT unveils new program by educators, for educators



NYSUT has launched a free, comprehensive reading education course, "The Science of Reading: A Practical Approach for Educators," designed to equip teachers with research-based strategies to support student literacy. Open to educators at all levels, literacy coaches, special education teachers, and administrators, the course features 10 modules delivered through both synchronous and asynchronous virtual sessions, covering topics from phonics and word recognition to fluency and reading comprehension. Grounded in the latest literacy research, the program empowers educators to improve students' reading development using proven models like the Simple View of Reading and Scarborough's Reading Rope. Participants earn 30 Continuing Teacher and Leader Education hours upon completion, gaining practical tools to enhance classroom instruction and ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve literacy success.

IMPORTANT

Things to Remember

- 1 Keep your door closed whenever instruction is taking place.
- 2 You can always request the presence of a union representative if you suspect disciplinary action.
- 3 Sign in every day and be in your room 5-10 minutes before classes start.
- 4 You can seek free legal advice from our lawyers at 1-800-832-5182.
- 5 Familiarize yourself with the language regarding vacation days before/after a holiday.
- 6 Untenured teachers- stay after school, support CP at games/shows, volunteer, chaperone, show spirit, etc.
- 7 Never be alone in a closed classroom with a single student.
- 8 Do not share any personal information like a home address or cell phone number with a student.
- 9 Try turning it off and on again before calling Bill and Yianne!
- 10 Stay off your cellphones during class.

NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	
2	3	4 -All Superintendent's Conference Day	5	6 -Syracuse Fix Tier 6 Rally	7 -All First Marking Period Ends -CL Walk for JDRF	8	
9	10	11 -Veteran's Day	12	13 -MSHS Blood Drive	14	15	
16	17 -MSHS Parent Teacher Night	18	19 -CL/RU Parent Teacher Night	20	21 -CL Spirit Day -HS Theatre Production	22 -HS Theatre Production	
23	24 -CL/RU Parent Teacher Afternoon	25 -All Emergency Early Release Drill	26 T H A N K S G I V I N G B R E A K			28	29
30							

Key:

Holiday

Local Event

School Event

Neighboring Local Event

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 -HS Theatre Auditions	3 -RU Winter Concert and Art Show -HS Intergenerational Concert	4 -BOE Board Meeting -MS/HS MP 3 Ends	5	6
7 -OPCA Tree Lighting	8	9 -MS Winter Concert	10 -RU Winter Concert and Art Show	11 -HS Superlatives	12 -CL Winter Concert and Art Show	13
14 -First Night of Hannukah	15	16 -HS Winter Concert	17	18	19 -CL Spirit Day	20
21 -Last Night of Hannukah	22	23	24 -No School -Christmas Eve	25 -No School -Christmas Day	26 -No School	27
28	29 -No School	30 -No School	31 -No School -New Year's Eve			13

CARLE PLACE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NOW HAS A WEBSITE AND AN APP!!!

USING EITHER UTILITY YOU CAN:

1. SEE ALL OF THE BENEFITS WE OFFER AS WELL AS INFORMATION ABOUT EACH BENEFIT!
2. STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR UPCOMING EVENTS, NEWS ABOUT NYSUT, ETC.!
3. READ THROUGH PERTINENT CPTA DOCUMENTS LIKE CBA/SALARY SCHEDULES!
4. PURCHASE SWAG FROM OUR UNION STORE ALL ON THE GO!

TO FIND THE WEBSITE OR USE THE APP:

THE WEBSITE



THE APP



YOU CAN ALSO TYPE IN THIS LINK :

www.Carleplaceta.org



0

Posts

2024

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Following

carleplaceteachersassociation

CPTA'S INSTAGRAM ERA



Submit



- professional accomplishments (ex: awards, honors, degrees earned)
- career milestones (ex: hired, retired, years of service)
- creative lessons
- extracurricular updates (ex: activities, trips, performances)
- PSAs (ex: fundraisers, drives)
- anything that deserves bragging rights to showcase the talents of our educators

Info

- optional
- students can be pictured
- teacher does not have to be pictured
- comments disabled
- account is public on Instagram
- personal accounts will not be tagged
- account follows district's guidelines for PR

Submit high resolution images or video files (allow for 48 hours to post).

[Click Here To See The Instagram](#)

[Click Here to Add Photos Online](#)

[Click Here to Add Photos Via Email](#)



PACK YOUR BAGS AND SAVE!



With Member Benefits

Do the colder temperatures have you longing for a little getaway?

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses several programs that can help with all your travel plans, including MB Discounts & Deals, Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, and Purchasing Power.

MB Discounts & Deals offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings at over 850,000 popular hotels and resorts worldwide along with flights, vehicle rentals, theme parks and attractions, Broadway shows and museums, sporting events and concerts, movie tickets, ski tickets, restaurant dine-in or take-out, and so much more. If you have not already done so, you can create an account at mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com with a preferred email address, a password, and your seven-digit NYSUT ID number (which can be found at nysut.org/memberid).

Does your bucket list include taking an unforgettable excursion to Asia, the South Pacific, Mediterranean, Africa, Europe, or numerous other destinations? NYSUT members save at least \$150 per person on published

Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel tours along with the opportunity to save thousands per trip with additional discounts and savings. GCT & OAT provide the chance to become fully immersed in the culture of the region you are visiting, including lesser-known locations that most Americans never get to experience. Discovery opportunities, activities, and educational discussions are included with each trip.

With **Purchasing Power**, eligible NYSUT members can package their entire vacation together – including hotels, flights, attractions, vacation rentals, and cruises – while paying over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Purchasing Power is not a discount program, but offers no credit check and no down payments; it serves as an option over traditional financing options like high-interest credit cards.

SCAN ME



Explore all that is available to you from Member Benefits by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/travelmb, or calling 800-626-8101.