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February 20, 2025

Save the Dates:



ETA General Membership

Meeting Tuesday,

March 4, 2025

***Door prizes, find out
information about our
Association!**

Megaconference

Sat. March 8: 8:30-1pm

ETA Social

May 16, 2025

**Celebrate each other and
honor our retirees.**

**OEA Summer Leadership
Academy**

**Develop your skills and
talents.**

June 23, 2025- June 25, 2025

NEOEA Summer Leadership

July 16, 2025-July 17, 2025

Labor Vocabulary Word of The Month

Ratification: The formal process in which union members vote to approve the newly negotiated tentative agreement. (The employer must approve the tentative agreement as well through its own approval process).

<https://www.nea.org/resource-library/union-terms-know>

**Scan below for access to
important documents and
district links, including our
contract, Public School Works,
and Aesop**



Euclid School Board Meetings are the second Wednesday of every Month at 7pm at the Fordyce Building, 651 East 222nd Street.

Euclid Teachers Association Journal

Educators Doing Extraordinary Things!! Teacher Feature by Jean Keehn, ETA Member, EHS

Tamara Reik On Sunday, January 26, 2025, elementary and middle school orchestra teacher Tamara Reik had the unique opportunity to perform on the prestigious stage of Severance Hall, home to the renowned Cleveland Orchestra. Tamara is an accomplished violinist who performs with the Parma Symphony Orchestra, a community ensemble consisting of 100 musicians from diverse backgrounds across Northeast Ohio. The orchestra has been an integral part of the region's musical landscape since its founding in 1968.

During the month of January, while the Cleveland Orchestra embarks on its concert series in Florida, Severance Hall opens its doors to host community and school ensembles as part of the Northeast Ohio Band Invitational. This initiative provides local musicians with the extraordinary opportunity to perform in one of the world's most esteemed concert venues.

The Parma Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Dr. Rand Laycock, a retired music educator who dedicated 36 years to teaching in Parma. For Tamara, this performance was particularly meaningful, as she had the honor of playing under the baton of her former middle school, high school, and youth orchestra director. Most importantly, Dr. Laycock is her mentor, whom she credits with shaping her education and inspiring her music career. Tamara was both excited and deeply honored to share this memorable experience with him and her fellow musicians on such an esteemed stage.



ETA Annual Social Save the Date by Dawn DeMarco, Building Rep, Shoreview

It's never too early to start planning for the end of the year! Every year, ETA members and guests gather together to celebrate our current retirees and Outstanding Educators. This event is open to all members, guests, and supporters of the Euclid Teachers Association! The date for this year's social is Friday May 16th. Start thinking of the amazing teachers at your building that could be this year's Outstanding Educator, or someone who is wrapping up their teaching career this year. Let's all come together to celebrate with them!

Groundhog Day Forecast by Angela Barnes, ETA Member, EHS

Did you blink and miss your “free” afternoon on Monday, February 3rd? Don’t worry just as Buckeye Chuck predicted that Spring is around the corner, Parker Panther predicted that another “free” Monday afternoon is just around the corner on March 31st. At least that’s when it will be at EHS. Unfortunately, that date does not coincide with some of our other schools. Their next “free” Monday must wait, just like Puxsutawney Phil’s prediction for Spring.



ETA Community Links by Kelly Henry, ETA PR, Middle School

Euclid Teachers continue to show love for our community by volunteering at the Cleveland Food Bank on Thursday, February 13. Members helped to sort, repackage, and box up food, create backpacks and more. Volunteering allows us to give back while meeting ETA Members from other schools. If you haven’t signed up for a Community Links opportunity this school year, please consider it.

Social Media for Teachers by Darlene Puljic, ETA Secretary, EHS

Social media accounts such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok can be used positively by teachers.

Wait....what? Really? Yes! Many teachers are already aware that they can find resources for the classroom, but what about personal resources for teachers? There are accounts that I highly recommend following. First, the Ohio STRS Member Only Forum on Facebook connects teachers who are active and also retired. If you have questions regarding our profession, this page can be used to talk with other Ohio teachers. It is a great way to connect. Posts also include updates to the ODE. I would still suggest talking with STRS if you have legal questions.

Facebook pages I recommend: ETA, Ohio STRS Member Only Forum, STRS Ohio Watchdogs, Ohio Education Association, Northeastern Ohio Education Association

Furthermore, if you Google ‘best social media pages for teachers for (your subject area)’. You will also find some great groups to join, find and share resources, and connect with like-minded teachers.

Check out these **ETA** resources: ETA website:
http://euclidta.ohea.us/?page_id=204

Follow We Support Euclid Teachers and Euclid Teachers Association on Facebook and Instagram

Committee Work at OEA Rep Assembly by Jonetta Reed, Building Rep, EMS

The OEA Representative Assembly runs smoothly because of our members working hard! The rep assembly (or RA) is a statewide gathering of delegates from OEA's more than 500 member districts held twice a year in Columbus. Middle school building rep Jonetta Reed serves on a committee. "I serve on the convention planning committee. We are one of the OEA standing committees that help the RA run smoothly. I was a stage timer and floor assistant. It's very busy but fun also!" If you would like to serve on an OEA Standing Committee, please contact desk@neoea.org.]



Honesty for Education by Carrie Walsh-Hilf, Building Rep. EMS

Do you wish you could be doing more for education or at the very least know more of what is going on? Honesty for Education is a great tool and resource for educators who want to know what is happening in education. The mission is to convene, educate, and activate individuals and communities to protect honest and inclusive education, building a more representative democracy for every Ohioan. There is information about leadership events, banned books, how to take action and to track legislation. There also are informative podcast episodes. Take time to visit the website that is supported by OEA. You also can follow them on Twitter and Facebook.

<https://www.honestyforohioeducation.org/about-us.html>

STRS Reemployment Account by Debbie Rudder, Retired Teacher

If you teach after you retire, STRS will open a reemployment account for you in addition to your recipient account (pension). When you apply to STRS for your reemployment retiree payment it will be paid in a lump sum directly to you OR rolled over to a qualified plan. If you are 65 or older you can have your reemployment retiree payment annuitized and added to your monthly pension payment, if it is over \$25 a month. Also, if you wait until you are 65 or older interest will be added to the money in your reemployment account, so you will get more money.

If you are not working at age 73 you **must** apply for your reemployment retiree payment because of the RMD (required minimum distribution) law. If you apply for your reemployment payment under age 59.5 you may have to pay an early withdrawal penalty.

“Upon your death, survivors will receive a lump-sum payment of any unpaid funds. It is important to keep your beneficiary information updated. Add beneficiaries to your reemployment account.” (STRS website)