

INFORMATION, NEWS AND SUPPORT SPEAK OUT! PITTSFORD DISTRICT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



This Is Just Not Sustainable Dwayne Cerbone, President

Out of respect for all that you have been faced with and accomplished this year, I am going to keep this brief. I suspect you all have your doubts, as brevity is not an attribute typically attributed to me in any format. Anything is worth trying once, so here we go.

This school year was not “normal.” It was not even a “new normal.” The only term that seems to fit is, “unsustainable.” The workload imposed by outside sources, the needs of the students as well as various initiatives overwhelmed our structures, systems and our members. Through it, I observed each and every member serve students and our district with unwavering passion, commitment, and excellence.

No matter your role there was significant impact as you bore more than you should have been asked or

expected. If I change my perspective for just a moment, away from our member’s excessive workload and varied burdens, to that of the students we served, I am awed to consider how well cared for and educated they were despite all that attempted to distract you from our primary initiatives.

You thoughtfully provided a blend of traditional and creative supports while simultaneously exploring ways to restore accountability for progress and personal behaviors, despite innumerable obstacles.

This summer will not be long enough to fully recover nor provide enough of a break to prepare us to do this again. We must, and we will, address many of the symptomatic burdens and imposed challenges so that our students and our members may again flourish in a safe, welcoming and engaging community. “Thank You” and “I am sorry” are not enough, but more appropriate

In this issue:

- 1 from the PRESIDENT/
EXECUTIVE VP
- 2 SRP NEWSLINK/
SCHOLARSHIPS
- 3 SUMMER OFFERINGS
- 4 STUDY GRANT REPORT/
NYSUT OFFERINGS
- 5 RETIREES
- 6-7 REPS/ADS

words unfortunately evade me, likely because I am just too tired. I, and all of your PDTA leaders, remain committed to advocating steadfastly on your behalf. Please take care of yourself and those you love.



Executive Vice-President Stephanie Warchol

As I look to the future, I see glimpses of normalcy, in my personal life, professional life, and in my union life. One exciting aspect is the return of the NYSUT Rochester Summer Leadership Conference.

Held in August, I am eager to connect with my union brothers and sisters, and learn valuable information to bring back to my fellow leaders in the PDTA. Topics include Building

and Strengthening a Healthy Local, Making Our Schools Safe for Everyone, Negotiations, Strategies for Working with New Members, Educational Unions and Social Justice, and that is all just in the first day.

Attendees will also have the chance to have breakout sessions with other Rochester union leaders to discuss ongoing issues, share local concerns and problem solve. The past few years have demonstrated how invaluable

the PDTA is as an advocate for our members, not only in the ability to negotiate a fair wage and benefits, but to continue to keep member health and safety a top priority.

I hope that summer brings some normalcy to the various aspects of your life and that it brings time for rest, lots of rest. Go ahead and just turn that alarm clock off now! Happy summer, and to our retirees, best wishes for your future adventures.



SRP Newslink Lorinda Spring

This has been yet another busy and challenging school year. SRPs have worked harder than ever to help students adjust to everyone being back in person. The increased emotional, behavioral and academic needs of our students put extra stress on us all, as we navigated through this year.

Your union is aware of this and will be continuing to advocate for changes in workload for the upcoming school year. It is important for you to take time this summer to relax and decompress from the past year.

Reminders:

- Paraprofessionals are required to complete one summer work day per our PDTA contract. Please fill out the SRP Summer Work Day

form which can be found on the PDTA website (www.pdta.org), and submit it to your building principal for prior approval.

- Job postings will continue throughout the summer months. Please check your email regularly if you are displaced or interested in applying for a different role.

Have a wonderful summer!

PDTA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS Molly Collins (MHS) and Emmi Lu (SHS)



I am majoring in Music Education with a minor in jazz studies at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. During my time at Crane, I hope to get involved in as many musical ensembles as possible, create my own jazz combo, and join the school's student government.

Following Crane, I plan to immediately look for a job at a public school (hopefully Pittsford?) after earning my bachelor's while also earning my master's degree in music therapy. I want to be as well rounded as possible and I know that by constantly exposing myself to different music and different professions related to music, I will be.

By being a music educator and therapist, I can be much more than a great musician— I am able to positively affect my community.

I am so honored to have received this scholarship! I am attending Stony Brook University in the Fall with an undeclared major. I plan on eventually becoming an education major, however I am unsure where that road leads yet. I am currently deciding between secondary math education or pursuing a career internationally (maybe even both)!



I am a University Scholar at SBU which puts emphasis on leadership and community service. I plan on continuing my work in community service and hope to participate in student government which I have loved since sophomore year of high school. There is also a peer tutoring service where I hope to help other students like myself, which in turn, will help me in my future pursuits of education.

My teachers have been such an inspiration to me in these past years of my life. The reason I want to be an educator myself is because of them. I hope to be the positive influence in the lives of children like my teachers were to me. So, thank you for giving me an opportunity to pursue and achieve my dream!



Speak Out is edited and assembled by Brian Regan.
Your feedback is welcome at brian_regan@pittsford.monroe.edu
All images are Creative Commons and/or used with permission.

Professional Learning / EQUITY SERIES

Join us this summer as we deepen our knowledge and understanding of culturally responsive-sustaining education practices through a series of eight workshops centered around the New York State Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CR-SE) Framework and Pittsford Central School District's commitment to equity and inclusivity.



Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education

8 Workshops

Take one, take all eight, take some number in between!

Join us to be part of the learning this summer!

Each two-hour workshop is designed around one of the core principles of the CR-SE Framework and has been developed to help you apply an equity lens to various aspects of your work with students in whatever setting. AND, each workshop is offered multiple times throughout the summer allowing you to create a learning plan that will work for you!

Take one, take all eight, take some number in between!

- *An Introduction to the CR-SE Framework (6/27, 6/29, 8/26, 8/30 or via Zoom 7/5, 8/3)*
- *An Introduction to the Social Justice Standards (6/29, 8/10)*
- *Discussion Protocols to Support Equity (6/28, 8/10, 8/29)*
- *Grading for Equity (Secondary teachers only; 7/11, 8/29)*
- *Implicit Bias (6/28, 7/6, 8/26)*
- *Selecting Experiences for Your Classroom through an Equity Lens (6/27, 7/11, 8/30)*
- *The Intersectionality of Identities and their Impact on Teaching and Learning (6/27, 7/6, 8/30)*
- *Understanding and Responding to Behavior through an Equity Lens (6/28, 7/11, 8/26, 8/29)*

Please see the Teacher Center Catalog for the exact time for each of the workshop offerings.

Pittsford Schools

Study Grant Report

Julia Plato, Middle School Orchestra

Last year, I had the honor of receiving the PDTA Wanda Ward Study Grant to attend Suzuki Book 1 Teacher Training at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

For those of you who are new to the Suzuki Method, it is a music curriculum, originally for stringed instruments, with a few key attributes. It emphasizes the importance of learning by sound before sight, always playing with a beautiful tone, and creating a nurturing learning environment so that students feel comfortable making and learning from mistakes.

This combination of philosophies is intended to let the student learn music organically just like how a child learns to speak before they can read. While this methodology was originally intended for young children under the age of 6, many of the concepts are important for learning a stringed instrument at any stage in life.

In my 6th grade beginning orchestra this year, I tried to implement some of the concepts I learned from my Suzuki Book 1 Teacher Training in a way that middle school aged students would enjoy.

When the students first started

holding their instruments, we focused on creating good posture when holding our instruments and practiced setting this posture in a variety of ways. While they practiced, they were also watching and hearing me model good playing. Once the students' good posture became more habitual, we



began our unit of call-and-response playing and learned new notes along the way. During these lessons, I demonstrated 4-note patterns on my instrument and then had the group emulate my playing. I emphasized the quality of sound I was producing and the ring of my instrument when the notes were in tune so the students would start listening for those qualities in their own playing. Soon, I was demonstrating entire pieces and students were able to play Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star in its entirety by the middle of October.

As the year went on, students began reading music and now can sight read pieces at a level 1.5 with little to no difficulty. While this is impressive and shows how smart this group of students is, the thing that stands out to me the most about this group of students is the high quality of tone production that

they are achieving. After just nine months of playing their instruments, they are making observations about their own playing that are far beyond my expectations. The students adjust their bow usage in the moment so that they can make a sound they are proud of almost every time they play. As much as I wish I could pat myself on the back for their progress, I must give all the

credit to Dr. Suzuki and his wonderful philosophy of music teaching and learning. By fully committing to creating a positive, nurturing learning environment and persistently telling the students that they can create a beautiful sound, I have been able to create a beginning 6th grade orchestra that sounds warm and full beyond their years of experience.

Rochester Regional Office

We are pleased to offer more free professional development sessions over the summer from NYSUT's Education & Learning Trust (ELT). There are sessions available at no cost for teachers and SRPs who are NYSUT members. On August 10 there will be a DASA training for those who need it for their certification. Except for this DASA training, all the sessions qualify for CTLE credit.

To register and see the list of classes go to this website: [NYSUT Rochester Learning Center](#). Some sessions may be designated for new members but if you are interested in any of them feel free to sign up for it regardless of how long you've been working in the profession.

Please note that some of these sessions are virtual and others are in-person at the Rochester Regional Office. The Rochester Regional NYSUT Office is located at 30 N. Union St., Rochester, NY 14607. There is ample free parking around the building. The classes will be held in the first floor conference center. The 6-hour DASA course will include pizza and soda for lunch.

Tween/Teen Drawing and Painting Class

August 23-26 9:30-11:30am, Ages 11-15

Wear old clothes. Bring a water bottle if desired.

All materials provided. \$90 (Cash or check to be paid first day of classes - made out to Kat Cramer)

To register:

email - katcramer40@gmail.com

56 Pennicott Circle in Penfield

(Walk to back of garage, stairwell leads down to studio)

Kat has been instructing art for over 30 years, graduated from SUNY New Paltz with Art Education and NYU with a concentration in Painting. She currently instructs full time at Pittsford Sutherland HS.



Congratulations to Our PDTA 2022 Retirees!



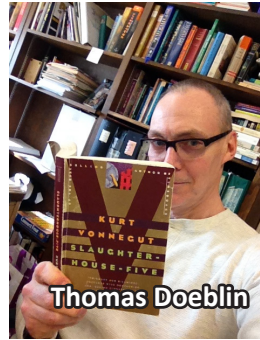
Anne-Marie Ark



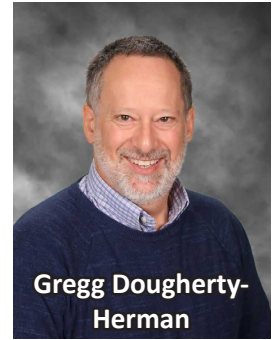
Gary Buckert



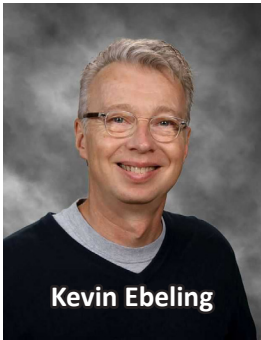
Natalie Crittenden



Thomas Doeblin



Gregg Dougherty-Herman



Kevin Ebeling



Adrienne Ehrlich



Mary-Jo Farrell



Mary Haltiner



Tina Jarvis



Lizbeth
Kecskemety



Patricia Mahar



Rhonda Matthews



Patricia Mayer



Vicki McCutcheon



Sue Ann McGrath



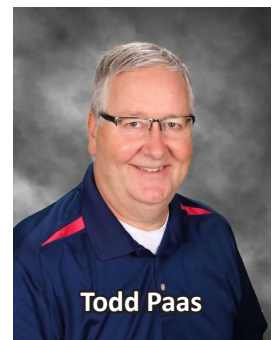
Joel Menchel



Cindy Merrifield



Maureen O'Neill



Todd Paas



Scott Parker



Jill Pink



Laura Ruffino



Sandy Stein



Jackie Wachob

Not pictured: Lisa Backscheider, Deborah Baron, Lisa Craigie, Denise Derrick, Karen Eipert, Becky Gleasman, Angela Hewitt, Karen Iles-Loveys, Sheila Klee, MaryKay Kreienberg, Michelle Miner, George Steele, Tracy Stubbs, Francine Tolpa, Nancy Trabold.

Your Reps:

Building Representatives:

Michele Riedl, AC
Brett Burrows, JR
Jennifer Villareale, MC
Spencer Jones, PR
Greg Bischooping, TR
Kristen Dolan, BR
Melissa Althouse, CR
Paige LaBarr, MHS
Lynne Drake, SHS
Lorinda Spring, SRP

Assistant Building Representatives:

Kathy Rudd, AC
Elizabeth Kramer, JR
Patty Mayer and
Trisha Sullivan, MC
Rebecca Kemp, PR
Amy Adams, TR
Liesa Ehrlich, Rhonda
Matthews,
Tammy Cole, BRMS
Adrienne Ehrlich, Lisa Riley,
CRMS
Tom Kennell,
Mindy Johnston, Jennifer
Shaffer MHS
Marc Hellem, Brian Shafer,
Amanda Marshall, SHS

Assistant SRP Representatives:

Rebecca Tan, MC
Debbie Ricketts, MC
Michele Seidel, AC
Radhika Ramesh, TR
Julie Pellegrino, CRMS
Farida Patrawala, CRMS
Connie Maust, BRMS
Brian Oliver, SHS

EMBROIDERED PDTA SWAG



15% of all sales go directly to our PDTA Student Scholarship Fund. We've raised over \$230 since the Fall!

All products are embroidered.

Purchases are done online through the company and shipped directly to your house. Keep an eye out for sale codes and free shipping deals which are frequently offered.

Link will always be open - make purchases whenever and as often as you like.

Makes a perfect gift for yourself or your favorite PDTA member- feel free to share the link with friends or family.

pdta.logosoftwear.com

Important Dates:

All Staff Orientation Day: August 31st, 2022.

Superintendent's Conference Days:

September 1st and 6th, 2022.

First Day of School for Students: September 7th, 2022

SPEAK OUT! Ads

You and your family members are invited to place ads in future issues of SPEAK OUT!
Rates for Members and Family (price is for one issue):

1/8 Page: \$12.50 ¼ Page: \$25.00 ½ Page: \$50.00 Full Page: \$100.00

Above Rates are for copy ready advertising. If additional design or set-up is required, an additional fee of \$25 will be assessed. Space for ads is limited per issue. Checks should be made out to PDTA and mailed to the PDTA Office. **Ad PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT PDTA CHARITABLE EFFORTS.**

Send copy and questions directly to brian_regan@pittsford.monroe.edu.

Explore all your union membership has to offer!

It's never too early
(or too late) to make
plans!

Find out how NYSUT
Member Benefits can
help you make the
most of your summer.

Check out the **MB Discounts & Deals program** in the **Shopping, Travel & Personal** section of our website to start planning (and saving) today.

Thinking of your next big adventure? A family trip or summer vacation? Member Benefits Discounts & Deals offers great savings of up to 50% on flights, hotels, car rentals, attractions and more when planning a trip.

Whether you want to explore other countries or the United States, Member Benefits Discounts & Deals has you covered. From London to Miami to Las Vegas to Paris, there are an abundance of other savings available as well! Restaurants, museums, theme parks, walking or bike tours, ziplining, sightseeing cruises, city exploration activities ... the list goes on. You can access these deals either online or through the MB Deals mobile app.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or
calling 800-626-8101.



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

May/June 2022

Got Questions? Visit [PDTA.org](https://pdta.org).
To contact your PDTA President confidentially
off of school email, please use dcerbonepdta@gmail.com