

Colleagues;

As the summer winds down, I hope that all of you enjoyed your break. As you may know, over the summer there were a large number of teachers hired, so please make sure you say hi and welcome them to your buildings.

There are a few very important things I wanted to remind you of in this email:

- ∅ **The WEA website is up and running, so please be sure to check it out. You will be able to find all communications from me posted there starting with this one.**
- ∅ **With the district's move to google and the availability of google chat, I wanted to remind you that no matter what form of communication, never write anything down you don't want a parent or community member to see, as both email and chats are subject to public records requests. This is also important to remember when we begin discussing concerns with specific students. Please remember that confidential information about students should not be shared with anyone who does not have direct contact with the student.**
- ∅ **Tuesday, August 13, at 7:30 am in the WHS music room is the WEA fall general membership meeting. This is the same time and location as always. The district convocation is not until 8:15am and we plan on ending by 8am, so you will still have time to get to the convocation by 8:15. Please be sure to attend. As you may know, we won a local affiliate grant from OEA for this year, so we will be continuing our incentive program we held second semester last year (winners from last year are still posted to the WEA web site). Beyond the incentive program, it is also important that you attend the meeting as we will be voting on the OTES memorandum of understanding (contract language regarding teacher evaluations).**
- ∅ **There are several important deadlines coming in September:**
 1. **Sick leave bank donations**-- these forms are due to Kim DeWeese by September 30, PLEASE, remember that if you wish to remain eligible to draw from the sick leave bank, you must donate a day; this applies to everyone, including those who have given a day previously. We have had several requests for large quantities of days in the last few years and seeing as the committee has never asked for additional days since its inception, this is normal. So, just as a reminder, if you wish to remain eligible to draw from the sick leave bank, you must return the form to donate 1 sick day to Kim Deweese, by **September 30**. If you gave previously, but do not give again this year, you are not going to be eligible to draw from the bank until you donate another day.
 2. **WEA Scholarships**-- Each year WEA awards scholarship(s) to graduating seniors of WEA members, up to \$100.00; however, recently, the number of members donating has decreased. This has lead to a very difficult situation. Rather than limiting the number of recipients, the executive committee has decided that any student who

applies, whose parent is a member will, will receive a scholarship, but the amount awarded will be determined by a. the number of students who apply and b. the amount donated by members (the maximum dollar amount awarded would still be \$100.00). What this means: if we have received \$475.00 by May, and have 5 seniors to award a scholarship to, each student would receive \$95.00. Donations are easily made; you can make donations through payroll deductions (even as little as \$2.00 a paycheck) or you can write a check to WEA and write "scholarship" in the memo line. If you choose to donate via payroll deduction, you must fill out the form and get it to Kim DeWeese by **September 15**.

- ∅ Your OTES goals will be due before you know it and observations will begin very shortly into the school year, so make sure you are vigilant in keeping up with documenting and keeping evidence of not only your progress towards your goals, but also anything you do which demonstrates an element of the new rubric, so make sure you familiarize yourself with the rubric.
- ∅ Please watch what you post on social media. Many of us use social media regularly, but with the use of social media comes the even closer scrutiny of what we do in our personal lives. Please make sure you are not posting inappropriate comments or pictures to social media.
- ∅ Remember that sick leave days are NOT to be used for personal business and that personal days are only for personal business that cannot be conducted outside school hours.
- ∅ We are negotiating this year, so be looking for a negotiations survey this by the end of the first semester.

Thank you so much and I certainly hope that you all enjoy the remainder of your summer, and I hope to see everyone at the fall general membership meeting on Tuesday, August 13, at 7:30am in the WHS music room!

On behalf of your WEA,

James Cutlip

WEA President