



Coachella Valley Teachers Association
California Teachers Association
National Education Association


August 24, 2020

mycvta.org

CVTA Advocate



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Greetings!

Good morning! You survived the first full week of Distance Learning. I know it hasn't been easy, and there are many frustrations. Try your best to allow yourself to take time off in the evenings and on weekends, for yourself, for your family, but mostly just for your own well being.

Don't be afraid to speak up if you need help, to your admin, your site reps, your coworkers, our District TK-12 coaches, our CVTA Executive Board, or even to me. When I went away to college and didn't have immediate access to family support, my dad would tell me every time we talked, "Don't suffer in silence." It's great advice, and I offer it to you now. You have access to a lot of support if you reach out and ask for it. Together we can make this a great experience for our students and for each other!

I'm trying to keep it short this week, so just giving you a bulleted list and some links to click for more information.

Important things to know

- **Attendance** - The window for entering attendance is open from 6am-6pm. Attendance should not only be counted as present if they are in your Zoom meeting. A student can be counted as present if they are working online, as well and for a valid reason couldn't attend your Zoom meeting. You can use your Office Hours to complete attendance if you choose.

[Here is a link to the attendance/engagement document from CWA to support this information.](#)

- **Engagement** - This is due on Friday and does not have to be entered daily. You do have to report it in a "daily" format in the document, but it can be entered whenever you choose and submitted once per week. A student can be "engaged" by participating in any number of synchronous or asynchronous activities, intervention, office hours, etc. Also use your Office Hours for this, if you choose.
- **Head Count** - You should have until 2pm to submit this, and only need to complete it for the first ten days (4 more days left for this). You may use your office hours for this, as well.
- **Staff Meetings** - These should be held at the same time as they were last year, so if you had morning meetings, they should still be in the morning. They can only change each year if a vote is taken and 2/3 vote to change the time.
- **MOU Frequently Asked Questions** have been added to our website at www.mycvta.org. These are based on questions asked at our two MOU meetings.
- **Office Hours** - This time is intended to be used to contact parents and students as needed regarding attendance, engagement, support the students may need, etc. This time may be used for you to attend an IEP meeting periodically. There should not be any other meetings scheduled during this time. Consider setting up a Google Voice account for parents to contact you, or learn to block your number when calling from your cell phone (although not many people answer if the caller ID is blocked).
- **Desert Sands Teachers Association (DSTA) Endorsed School Board Candidate** - Several of you may live in the La Quinta area and be able to vote in their school board election. [Take a minute to read this message from their president.](#)
- **Recording of Zoom Meetings/Cameras** - You can record your lessons and make them available on your Google Classroom if you wish. I would advise not posting any sections with students, just your lesson, if you choose to record for sharing purposes. Student cameras on or off is up to you. Please be mindful of concerns students may have about other students seeing their home, or camera usage bogging down their connectivity.

[Here is an awesome Zoom tips email that Tara Hinchey, AAI at Mountain Vista Elementary, shared with her site.](#)

Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

- **August 26th** - CVTA Executive Board Virtual Meeting, 4:30pm
- **September** - All month...Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment
- **September 7th** - Labor Day Holiday

- **September 9th - CVTA Rep Council Virtual Meeting, 4:30 pm**
- **September 10th - School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm**
- **September 11th - Deadline for class size requirements**
- **September 12th - Low Desert Leadership Virtual Training for site reps and CVTA Leadership**

Please share this email with anyone you know that does not already receive it. There is a link near the top to sign up on our mailing list. These newsletters are always archived on our CVTA Website, also. Thank you!

Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

"You can't do it unless you organize."

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