

September 2020



The Advocate

Welcome new ACEA Members!

Unit 1

Blake	Geatz	AL
Melanie	Christner	BE
Carrie	Wampler	BE
Tanner	Brode	BR
Meagan	McElfish	BR
Shawn	Twigg	BR
Kathleen	Schept	CA
Kelsey	Shreve	CW/PA
Autumn	Wilson	GC
Rebecca	Lee	MR
Shawna	Shipe	NE
Kyndra	Dawson	PA
Kristin	Hedrick	PA
Lindsay	Bittner	SP
Lisa	Thomas	SP
Michele	Maust	WM
Rachael	Yost	WS
Shawn	Jones	WT
Katelyn	Hendrix	WT/MT

Unit 4

Amanda	Johnson	AL
Crystal	Wilhelm	WS
Patty	Marple	BR

Virtually vicissitudinous !

vi-cis-si-tude n.; vi-cis-si-tu-di-nous (vī-sī'sī--tōōd'n-əs, -tyōōd'-) adj.

1. A usually unforeseen change in circumstance or experience that affects one's life, especially in a trying way:
2. The quality of being changeable; mutability: the vicissitude of fortune.

As I am writing this, it is the first day of instruction for students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Like many of you, I was searching for the perfect words to convey my message to you, but couldn't quite find them in my current repertoire. Since we have never experienced anything quite like this pandemic, adequate words weren't known either. So, like any good educator, I researched to find some. When I came across "vicissitudinous", I knew I had found it.



First, the root word describes the impact of the pandemic very effectively. It was unforeseen to a large extent, and it has definitely been trying to everyone in some way, and to some in every way. For us educators, it was and continues to be the challenge and rapid transformation to digital learning and all of the caveats that goes with it. Even if you weren't a first-year educator this year, you might think that you were!

You have worked incredibly hard to help make this year successful for our students regardless of what the uninformed naysayers try to make the rhetoric. To counter this, ACEA has decided to start a Facebook feed using #EducatorsAtWork. More information on this can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Secondly, each and every one of you have shown the willingness and "quality of being changeable". As I visited some schools during the pre-service days, I witnessed the dedication and intense effort of all to master Schoology, and prepare for the needs of the students. I also know that our members who work at the central office had an incredibly intense summer as they assisted in the preparations for the big changes this year in both big and small ways.

Remember, there is immense power in words and they should always be selected with care. Once spoken or shared, they can never be fully retracted. In solidarity and service,

Kim

ACEA President

ksloane@mseanea.org

UniServ Minute

The Next New Normal

If you've been in education long enough, you come to realize at some point that "normal" changes all the time. Educators are masters of adaptation. But the start of the 2020-21 school year is unlike anything any of us have seen before. Adaptation just doesn't adequately describe what you're being asked to do. You're being asked to invent a new way of teaching and learning.

Invention requires trial and error and the first few months of this school year are bound to have plenty of each. As your staff representative, I want to offer some points of advice:

1. "To err is human, to forgive divine."- Alexander Pope. Let yourself off the hook if you get something not 100% right. Your students will be ok. You can reteach it if you have to. Forgive yourself and move on.
2. Recognize that you don't have to get it all done. One thing that isn't different right now is that the work doesn't end. So, give yourself a schedule and stick to it. You probably don't work a 7.5 hour day, but anything that goes beyond that is at your discretion. Take breaks and recognize the work will still be there when you're able to do it.
3. Yes, even if you're a Special Educator. Special Educators do not hold sole liability for meeting the requirements of an IEP. If the system isn't giving you what you need to get the job done, it is your right to point it out and do what you are able to in a reasonable amount of time.
4. Reach out to ACEA. We've been working since the start of the pandemic to get our members information and to provide feedback from you to the system. We've also been fighting to make sure your rights are protected. We are going to keep doing that, but we need you to let us know where and how we can help.

Our members are consummate professionals that have dealt with the most extreme of circumstances. Please know that I personally appreciate your dedication to your professions. ACEA will keep advocating to make it possible for you to do your jobs. Thank you for all you do.

ACEA Calendar >>>

We know how much you love your annual ACEA/ACT 1st Calendar, but like everything else since March, it could not be produced. First and foremost, these calendars are usually drafted and produced in the late spring at the CCTE, but of course our system was totally closed at that point. However, even more pertinent than that was the fluid school reopening situation with uncertainty and changing information regarding the manner and dates for the new academic year. So, we are including with this newsletter a combined ACPS/ACEA Calendar for both September and October 2020. We will continue to do this throughout the year on a bi-monthly basis in an attempt to satisfy this need for our members.

Sick Leave Bank Sign-Up Opportunity

The Sick Leave Bank was established through contract negotiations in 1999, and began in the subsequent year 2000. The purpose was to create a bank of sick days for severe medical hardship such as catastrophic illness or serious accident that has depleted all accumulated sick leave and vacation days where applicable. To join the SLB, you would be required to donate *two sick leave days* to the bank, and complete the Sick Leave Bank Sign-up Form. The form can be found and downloaded from our website at aceamsea.org, and can be found under the "Important Documents" tab. Once completed, you must return it to the ACEA to arrive no later than Friday, September 25, 2020 for processing before the enrollment deadline.

**Check out
aceamsea.org...**

ACEA Donates to the WMFB, Inc.



#EducatorsAtWork

Help us let people know that you are #EducatorsAtWork! Share what you're doing to make virtual learning work by posting it to Facebook and tag ACEA in it with the #EducatorsAtWork. Let's change the conversation!