

COVID 19 – UPDATE #10 (April 16)

As you continue to face the challenges of distance learning, teachers are more respected now than ever in our communities. This greater respect can be chalked up to all of the hard work and dedication each of you are showing in very difficult times. THANK YOU! I was hopeful to hear about some of the unique things teachers are doing to reach their students but understandably you are far too busy to gloat. Please keep up the exceptional work.

Sick Time and Personal Leave

Keep in mind that you still have access to both of these provisions in our collective agreement.

It is imperative that you take care of yourself both mentally and physically. Please do not be afraid to access your sick days if you need them.

There may not be much use for personal days under the current circumstances but know that you still have access to these days. Remember, you can only carry over two Article 31 days at the end of the year. If you have more than two days in your personal leave bank right now you will potentially have the extra days expire if they are left unused.

Privacy

I have been hearing several concerns about using your personal devices to contact students and parents. It is never recommended that you give out your personal contact information. If you choose to use your personal phone, please take every precaution to ensure your privacy is maintained. Be cautious when sharing your personal contact information. Remember if parents and students have your personal phone number that does not give them the right to have around the clock access to you.

If you are using social media to access student information remember to be cognizant of how much information you are allowing the public to access. There may be information you would like to remain private, so please be cautious.

Joint PD Fund

The Joint PD fund is still available for you to access. I understand you are not able to travel to PD right now but there is a plethora of online learning opportunities. If you find some online PD that you would like to access, please do not hesitate to put in an application. If the cost is less than \$500 it will not affect your ability to access the larger amount next year. The deadline for application is May 6th I look forward to seeing your application! The application and criteria can be found on the BTA website under documents. The completed form should be scanned and emailed to the BTA office at: office@btateach.com

If you know of any online PD opportunities that you would like me to share, please feel free to send those my way and I will get them in the hands of members as soon as possible.

Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to support you.

We are all in this together!

Cale Dunbar
President
Brandon Teachers' Association.