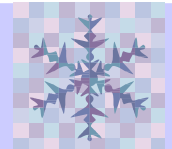




CTA SNIPPETS

<http://corningta.ny.aft.org/>



CORNING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

November/December 2015 Volume 13 Issue 2

President Report, Leslie Varga

VAM-ified.....and VAM-boozled

Some fights are just not worth losing. THIS is one of them.

Everywhere we turn in the *Imaginary Land of Reform*, we keep coming back to teacher effectiveness. Every politician either begins or ends a speech with the concept of measuring teacher effectiveness. Why do we give the State Test? To measure teacher effectiveness. How do we rank and evaluate our schools? By looking at teacher effectiveness. How do we evaluate every single program instituted in any school? By checking to see how it affects teacher effectiveness. How do we prove that Common Core is working? By looking at teacher effectiveness. How do we prove that corporate involvement at every stage is a good thing? By looking at teacher effectiveness.

Value Added Measurement is the new compass that steers so called “reform”. To admit that it is useless would be to admit that our political leaders have been piloting the ship of education blindly and haphazardly. They are steering us onto the rocks and are clueless of how to get us anywhere else. Either that, or they would have to admit that they've known all along exactly where they were taking us, and the Value Added Measurement compass has just been a big lie to keep the passengers quiet and calm. After all, in God we trust—all others bring data, right?

The objective of VAM is to undermine teachers' due process rights through some quasi mathematical algorithm aka *Junk Science* that the teacher is not privy to. It is “railroading” done in a way to give the illusion of objectivity. In reality, VAM has nothing to do with evaluation—but has everything to do with the power to fire public school teachers. Cuomo's mission is to fire bad teachers. They MUST be out there—after all, students are not meeting state's expectations—the same expectations that go up and down more than a flag on a pole.

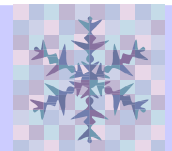
When all of the layers of the onion are peeled away, the reality is that twenty-first century test data is important to create charter school marketing and support the claim that public schools aren't working. “Deformers” need data (the kind that is easy to manipulate) to create the illusion of a public education “crisis” that will drive the hedge fund manager vision of reform—and profit. At the end of the day, the Data Overlords believe that remaking the world in their own image is not merely a business plan or a great way to make a buck. They believe it is a moral obligation to impose their vision on the rest of the world. A vision that, if left unchallenged, will change public education—the cornerstone of democracy, into a dual school system: One school system for the privileged kids, or the kids who don't have big problems... the for-profit charters, that are allowed to choose their students and exclude those they don't want—and play by the rules that they have had a heavy hand in creating. And the other one, that's required to take everyone. That would be known as the Public School System.

Continued on page 2



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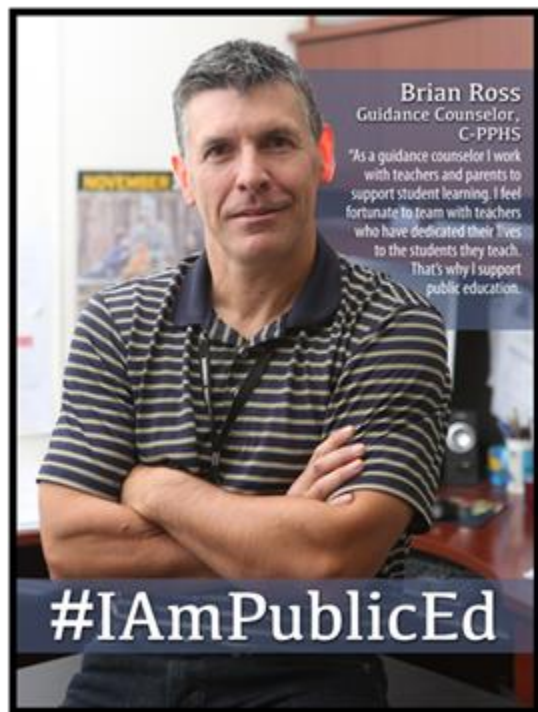
VAM-ified.....and VAM-boozled, continued

Teachers know that learning is much more than what can be regurgitated on a standardized test. It's about constructing knowledge and understanding of the world. True learning is not memorizing teacher-imparted facts or mastering teacher-directed skills. The type of "learning" that can be measured actually undermines real learning because it's all about striving for someone else's "correct" answer. I feel confident speaking for the collective voice of the Corning Teachers' Association in defining what our teachers want of our students. We want for each of our students to know himself or herself as unique, valuable, and special-- with something important to offer society. We value our students—they are each a unique constellation of qualities, a product of individual hard-wiring and history. These virtues and attributes cannot be measured in a standardized test.

These truths are worth fighting for.

#IAmPublicEd

A Corning Teachers' Association Initiative



Brian Ross
Guidance Counselor,
C-PPHS

"As a guidance counselor I work with teachers and parents to support student learning. I feel fortunate to team with teachers who have dedicated their lives to the students they teach. That's why I support public education."

Your CTA is sponsoring an initiative to spread the word about the importance of public education—which is critical given that charter schools are creeping up in our area. With the expertise of Mike Simons and his highly qualified yearbook staff, we are creating posters that will be displayed throughout the community—for all to see.

Interested in becoming a poster child for public education? Contact your CTA building representative or Leslie Varga.

A special thank you to CTA's Brian Ross for being the subject for our prototype!

Contract Items to Note.....



David Rich , Grievance Chairperson

“Knowing is Half the Battle”.

G.I. Joe

Contract article 3.3 B - PROFESSIONAL TEACHING HOURS allows teachers to obtain **in-service** for work outside the school day. The request must be made *prior* to the work being done.

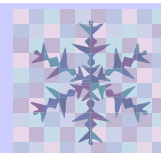
B. Professional time can be extended beyond the work day and teachers (PreK-12) can receive in-service clock hours (up to twelve [12] per school year) as compensation for this time. The purpose of this opportunity is to encourage the utilization of data to improve student achievement, or to facilitate required reports to be completed in a timely manner. Recognizing the importance of direct instruction during the regular work day, teachers often choose to work on other professional assignments outside the work day. The teacher should initiate the request and be granted time upon the approval of the supervisor or building principal. The supervisor or building principal may restrict the work's location and the timeframe. If the supervisor or building principal denies the request, the teacher may pursue review of the request with the CTA President. The Superintendent or designee has the sole discretion to approve or deny the review request.

How Are Members Using their 3.3 Professional Teaching Hours?

Dibels Input

- Report Cards/Data Entry/Final Grades
- Aligning lexile levels (from NWEA) to readers
- Tracking Accelerated Reader data and disseminating to students
- Data Cards
- Score Foss tests
- AIS paperwork
- Yellow Data sheets, module assessments, PTC information, Dolch word reports,
- Correcting math modules, setting up/cleaning up Foss materials
- Foss I-checks,
- EngageNY
- Student Profile cards, CKLA unit test scoring
- IEP progress reports
- Parent/Teacher conference prep
- Data compilation after assessments
- Use compilation to reconfigure groups based on assessment data
- Report cards
- Parent contacts
- Data notebook

How are you
using your
hours?



Ben Bowers, Treasurer Report

CTA AUDIT Committee Report:

Date: November 18, 2015

Local Name: Coming Teachers' Association Local's AFT# 2589

We have examined the financial records of The Coming Teachers' Association for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, and found them to be in good order. This examination was performed by a committee of members of Coming Teachers' Association and was not conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

During the course of our examination, we discovered that, while there was adequate documentation maintained for all income, documentation was not complete for all expenditures. This was primarily due to receipts that were in a file folder with no referring information on them. In the future, if receipts are collected for reimbursement, a voucher with the name of the person being reimbursed, date of check and check # should be attached to the receipts.

Based upon our examination, we consider the attached financial statements for the period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, to be an accurate summary of transactions conducted during that period.

Sincerely,

Newell Anderson, Member

Corning Teachers' Association Financial Review Committee

Katie Gray, Member

Coming Teachers' Association Financial Review Committee

Kenneth McLaughlin, Member

Coming Teachers' Association Financial Review Committee

NOTICE: CTA's financial records may be examined by any member of our organization.

The full audit report was attached to the email that contained the Snippets link.

Please contact Leslie Varga with questions.

What is your Contract IQ?

- 1) How many after school building meetings per month are permitted (except in emergencies)?
- 2) Under what circumstances can the school year start before Labor Day?
- 3) What is the maximum number of sick days a member can be compensated for upon retirement?
- 4) What happens to unused Personal Days?
- 5) How many bereavement days are granted for immediate family members?
- 6) How many bereavement days may be granted to attend a non-relative funeral?
- 7) How much compensation do members with master's degree receive each year?
- 8) How many pages is our contract?
- 9) What is the maximum active treatment \$ amount for braces?
- 10) When does our current contract expire?

***The first three members to email
Leslie Varga with 100% correct
answers receive a prize!***

Lvarga@cppmail.com

David Rich, Vice-President Report

CTA = Corning Teachers in Action

I am in awe of the 480+ professionals in our association and their impact on our community, especially this time of year. For that reason, I have included a small sampling of "Corning Teachers in Action" during the holiday season in this issue to recognize the commitment of members to our community.

Severn Elementary

The Kindergarten teachers at Severn collect items to donate to the SPCA every year instead of trading gifts in our classrooms. The children love when the volunteers from the SPCA come in and pick up the items. The volunteers tell us a story and they also bring in a special pet to meet us. We discuss how great it is to give to others.

Calvin U. Smith

Operation Gratitude is a non-profit organization out of California that sends items to our troops all year. Two weeks after Halloween they ask kids to make a difference by donating their Halloween candy to the troops. CUS collected for one week and brought in 140.5 pounds of candy that was shipped out to our troops at the beginning of November.

Tricia Rosno's classroom also makes holiday cards to give to residents of our local nursing homes to add some holiday cheer in their lives. BRAG buddies will also be making Valentines for Vets when we return from break.

Gregg School

Each year the staff and students at Hugh Gregg Elementary School collect money to purchase food items to make "Blizzard Bags" for the Corning Meals on Wheels. These bags are used on days that the Meals on Wheels staff are unable to drive to homes due to snowy weather. Students are asked to do odd jobs around their home to earn coins to donate. The Gregg School staff has a "Salad and Dessert Day." All the proceeds are used to purchase the food items needed for the bags. Each year students color the bags with winter and summer scenes and help pack the items (tuna lunch kit, fruit juice, soup, crackers, and a fruit cup). We are currently in our fourteenth year! This year we will pack 270 "Blizzard Bags." This is 40 more bags than we did last year! On the last day of school before Christmas vacation, the staff and students will present the packaged bags and a cash donation to Corning Meals on Wheels! Each year we receive thank you cards from seniors who have benefited from the "Blizzard Bags." It is a truly a wonderful opportunity to support our senior citizens in the community.

Corning Teachers in Action, continued

Winfield Elementary

Members collected donations for a family who had a house fire and provided Christmas presents for families in need.

Carder Elementary

Members collected monetary donations to support the Salvation Army after school program.

High School

The Sunshine Club adopted two Heart to Heart families and provided Christmas gifts.

Board of Education Building

BOE staff has adopted two families and will provide Christmas gifts.





CTA, CTAA and CTA-Retiree Members Come Through for Heart to Heart Families



A big *Thank You* goes to all CTA, CTAA and CTA-R members for participating in the 2015 Heart to Heart household product drive. Your participation will make a huge difference for many families in need. As you shop over



the next year, please keep the 2016 drive in mind. Let's fill these shelves with... tissues (boxed), laundry soap, toilet paper, toothpaste/toothbrushes, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, dish detergent, paper towels, bar body soap.

Another big Thank You to the building helpers: **Rick Gallant, Dave Rich, Chris Wise, Doris Maxwell, Lauren Frazer, Stacey Bathrick, Susan Bayer, Judy Smith-Coleman, Susan Shappee, Carol Naylor, Peggy Butler, Kristen Bennitt, Keli Terwilliger, Jennifer Finnefrock, Dawn Humphrey, Terri Denson, Audrey Vorhees, Mitch Peck, Shawn Finan, Nicole Salyerds, Mary Tammaro, and Doreen Bonomo!**

By Erin Merrill



The Value of NYSUT Membership

You may not be aware that your NYSUT membership allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Member Benefits strives to provide the highest-quality programs for NYSUT members and closely scrutinizes all proposals from reputable vendors before any endorsements are given.

While we work continuously to maintain quality benefit programs at competitive prices, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.



Are you ready to answer these questions?

What would happen if you suddenly died? Have you ever considered what would happen to your spouse and/or children? Take a few moments and answer these questions now:

- 1) Would your loved ones be able to afford their current home?*
- 2) Could your loved ones continue to pay regular bills and maintain their medical coverage?*
- 3) Would your loved ones be able to plan for your final funeral expenses?*

If your answer to the above questions is “No” or “I don’t know,” consider enrolling in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans. Both of these plans allow you to select the plan and benefit amount that best meets your specific needs.

Visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific details about these plans.

The Issuance of a Certificate of Insurance or payment of benefits will depend upon the answers given in the application and the truthfulness of those answers. Additional underwriting requirements may be needed.

Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement with its endorsed insurance provider of 7.61% of earned premiums for these programs. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. The Insurer pools the premiums of Member Benefits participants who are insured for the purposes of determining premium rates and accounting. Coverage outside of these plans may have rates and terms that are not the same as those obtainable through Member Benefits. The Insurer or Member Benefits may hold premium reserves that may be used to offset rate increases and/or fund such other expenses related to the plan as determined appropriate by Member Benefits. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.