



Frederick County Teachers Association

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Dear Colleague,

Welcome to Frederick County Public Schools! As you embark on your career with FCPS you have a busy, challenging, and exciting year ahead of you. I hope you will find this work successful and rewarding. As President of Frederick County Teachers Association (FCTA), I invite you to [join the over 2,900 educators](#) in Frederick County who belong to our professional organization. FCTA works to advocate, empower, and organize members to ensure an excellent and equitable public education in Frederick County. From negotiating your contract and guiding you through evaluation/tenure process, to giving you a voice on workgroups that collaborate with FCPS on professional issues, to providing professional development and organizing social events for members – FCTA is here to work with you.

You are entering FCPS in an incredibly challenging time as the impact of the pandemic has yet to be fully understood. FCTA has worked with FCPS from day one of this pandemic to maintain consistent communication which has allowed teacher feedback to be part of the collaboration as we navigate this ever-changing environment. We in turn have been able to update members as things have been unfolding. This continuous loop of communication remains crucial with the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This coming year we will work together to provide the most optimal conditions for teaching and learning. The Frederick County Teachers Association offers a wide range of benefits that are crucial to your personal, financial, and professional security. The benefits of membership are among the many important reasons that 90% of your colleagues are FCTA members. In fact, using the savings offered through the NEA/MSEA Member Benefits Program can help cover the cost of your association dues and more (go to www.neamb.com and check out the money saving deals and discounts offered to NEA members).

The strength of FCTA, MSEA and NEA to advocate for public schools and public-school educators is found in the unity of our members. Today, more than ever, there are challenges facing public education and educators. Teachers, school counselors, media specialists, therapists, speech and language pathologists, social workers and other certificated staff need to stand together so that we have the power to meet these challenges in our community and beyond. [By joining your professional association](#), you will have a voice in improving public education and the teaching profession.

Have a great start in Fredrick County. I look forward to meeting you, and I urge you to become an active member of FCTA and the Frederick community. Please call, email, or stop by my office if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share.

Sincerely,

Melissa Dirks
FCTA President