



## FCTA Association News - May Teacher Appreciation Month



### Thank You!!

Teachers are the foundation of our community. You educate, nurture and inspire students to be their best. You deserve more than one day or even one week of appreciation. The PTA Council of Frederick County



and the Frederick County Teachers Association have teamed up for our 2017 ***Thank a Teacher Campaign***. During the month of May, we will be publicly recognizing the work you do everyday for your students. We will be recognizing the importance of teachers within the community by sharing messages through the social media sites of FCTA and PTA Council. Frederick County Transit buses will carry our #ThankATeacher message on routes throughout the county (Pictured above with PTA Council President Traci Tatum and FCTA President Missy Dirks). We will be posting messages from elected officials, community members, parents and fellow educators over the next few weeks, so follow us on Twitter @myfcta and @FrederickPTA and on Facebook at "Frederick County Teachers Association".

National PTA and NEA have also teamed up. [Click here](#) to read the letter to educators from their Presidents Lily Eskelsen Garcia and Laura Bay.

## Negotiations and Budget Updates

**Budget:** County Executive Jan Gardner released her proposed FY2018 budget on April 13. The budget included an increase over maintenance of effort that we believe is sufficient to implement year 2 of the salary transition negotiated last year. However, the budget process is not over and in order for the transition to be funded, the County Council must leave education funding intact. The County Council held its public hearings on the budget and has until the end of May to take action on the budget. The final step to the budgeting process will take place in June when the Board of Education will take final action on their budget.

**Negotiations:** The FCTA and BoE teams continue to meet and have come to tentative agreement on some minor language proposals. The major topics from the FCTA Bargaining Priorities still remain outstanding. We have several joint negotiation meeting scheduled during the month of May. We will continue to update members on their status.

## **Sign up for 2017-2018 FCTA Committees**

One of the most important ways for members to be involved in FCTA is through participation on one (or more) of our standing committees. Our committees are essential to the success of the association and ensure that we meet the needs of our members. Teachers are an incredibly talented resource and the FCTA Board encourages active involvement in the Association. Please look over the committee descriptions and see where your talents and interests best fit. If you have questions about a particular committee, please call or email Missy Dirks.

**The success of FCTA committees depends on the contributions and commitment of volunteers. Please consider becoming an active member of one or more committees. [Click here](#) to access the link to sign up for one or more committees.**

## **Open Enrollment for Insurance**

May 1 -26 is the open enrollment period for Insurance. This is the time to enroll or re-enroll in the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program and/or change your benefit options. Even if you are not planning on changing benefits, take a look at the plan summary documents to see how the benefits have been enhanced. If you have not taken a look at the Dental Buy-Up option added a few years ago now is the time to do that too!

Benefit Changes for July 1, 2017:

The Joint FCPS/FCTA/FASSE/FCASA Insurance Council are pleased to announce that they have been able to provide several enhancements to the plan to include expansion of preventive coverage, vision coverage, Physical Therapy copay reduction and much more. Please read the Plan Enrollment Summary

Guide<<https://campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com/prod/33903/86de7fb0-3a18-11e6-b537-2200bd8490f/597246/ca453fea-600e-11e6-943a-2200bd8490f/file/UHCSummaryBenefits.pdf>> for additional details. In addition, it is anticipated the health insurance premiums will not be increased for the upcoming year contingent upon final contract negotiations with FCTA, FASSE, FCASA and final adoption of the Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2018 budget.