

# The Voice

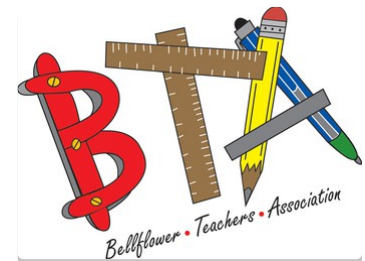
Bellflower Teachers Association



## From the President

Hello Members,

Happy New Year! I would like to take a moment to welcome you to 2023. It is an exciting time for BUSD as our new superintendent has started. Some of you may have already met him, but if you haven't, he is a breath of fresh air.



We are all anxiously waiting for bargaining tomorrow, and BTA will be sending out an email update as soon as possible after bargaining concludes. Please watch your personal emails tomorrow afternoon.

BTA will be coming to all the sites in February, March and April. The Standard will also be sending a rep with us, so if you haven't signed up for The Standard, or you have questions about your coverage, please come by and ask. We will send specific dates as they are finalized, but please stop by to say hello.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your site reps or email [voiceofBTA@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofBTA@gmail.com).

In Solidarity,  
Linda A.  
BTA President

# Things to Note

## Know Your Teacher Rights

CTA members have the legal right to a safe and healthy workplace. A mini-guide to teacher's rights was placed in your teacher mailbox for your reference and review, but if you missed it or didn't get one, the link is below for you to visit and bookmark.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/your-rights>

## Know Your Ed Code

When can you suspend a student? What are your rights as a teacher? Check out this PDF!

[https://www.lbusd.org/uploaded/1-](https://www.lbusd.org/uploaded/1-District/Departments/Instructional_Services/Documents/Student_Handbook_Section_7_California_Education_Code_for_Student_Discipline.pdf)

[District/Departments/Instructional\\_Services/Documents/Student\\_Handbook\\_Section\\_7\\_California\\_Education\\_Code\\_for\\_Student\\_Discipline.pdf](https://www.lbusd.org/uploaded/1-District/Departments/Instructional_Services/Documents/Student_Handbook_Section_7_California_Education_Code_for_Student_Discipline.pdf)

## Know Your Contract

[www.bellflowerteachers.com](http://www.bellflowerteachers.com) has the most updated contract PDFs for your reference.

<https://bellflowerteachers.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2022-BTA-Contract-FINAL-for-printing.pdf>

## CalSTRS Retirement Webinars

You're never too young or old to learn about your CalSTRS benefits, programs, and services. There will be materials and discussion of the CalSTRS retirement benefit formula, options, Defined Benefit Supplemental program, survivor benefits, legislative changes, and Social Security Offsets.

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

[VoiceofBTA@gmail.com](mailto:VoiceofBTA@gmail.com) sent out an email with a PDF that has the registration link. Registration is required.



**CTA CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

**Virtual RETIREMENT TRAINING**

You're never too young or old to learn about your CalSTRS benefits, programs, and services. There will be materials and discussion of the CalSTRS retirement benefit formula, options, Defined Benefit Supplemental program, survivor benefits, legislative changes, and Social Security Offsets.

*Topics*

- STRS - Overview of The System and How It Works
- Social Security - Effects on CalSTRS Members

Tuesday, September 6, 2022	Thursday, January 5, 2023
Tuesday, October 4, 2022	Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Thursday, October 6, 2022	Tuesday, February 7, 2023
Tuesday, November 1, 2022	Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Thursday, November 3, 2022	Thursday, March 8, 2023
Tuesday, November 8, 2022	Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Each training is limited to 250 participants. If you receive a message that the training you selected is full, please select a different date.

**REGISTER NOW!**

**ALL WORKSHOPS - 4:30 - 6:30 PM**

If you need to cancel a training you registered for please email [gdcomenicocta.org](mailto:gdcomenicocta.org)

**webex**

## Get the Calm App for Free with CTA!

Free subscription to CTA members. To access your free subscription, you will need to log into the CTA Member Benefits site, <https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org/en/Life-Events/Calm>. This link will take you to our Calm site and you will follow the instructions on the page to create your Calm account. You

will need your CTA member ID, if you do not know your member ID, you can call Member Benefits at (650) 552-5200. They can also help create your Calm account. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

## District Professional Development Opportunities

In case you missed the Professional Development opportunities in your school email, here they are again!

We are pleased to offer the following Advanced Thinking Maps Professional Development opportunities. As the trainings are "advanced" in nature, attendees must have had initial Thinking Maps training to attend these sessions as the sessions will build off of the initial training information. A full description of the trainings including the times and days are provided on the linked Registration form below. Please share this information with teachers.

Below are the trainings available:

- **Thinking Maps: Map Expertise (Frame of Reference & Color for Purpose):** March 2nd, March 23rd (IN-PERSON)
- **Thinking Maps: Taking Info Off the Map:** March 22nd, and March 30th (IN-PERSON)
- **Thinking Maps & Depth & Complexity\*:** February 15th and March 28th (VIRTUAL)
- **Thinking Maps: Math Discourse** (recommended prerequisite is TM Map Expertise): March 21st (IN-PERSON)

Please register here: [Thinking Maps Registration Form](#).

A confirmation email will go out to teachers prior to the PDs.

*Please Note: Participants will be compensated at the hourly rate of \$42.98. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. If the session you sign up for is full, you will be placed on a waitlist for future session if they become available.*

### Secondary Reading Fluency (7-12)

Research has found fluency practice improves reading comprehension by providing supported practice in reading text. It can also improve performance with a particular text with the idea that what is being learned will be generalized to other texts. Come learn about fluency across the content areas at the secondary level.

**Presented by Arlene Alvarez, Araceli Roldan, and Leah Moak**

- Tuesday, March 7, 4:00-5:30p

[Registration Form](#)

Kami is a perfect tool for enhancing fluency reading tasks! All BUSD teachers have premium access to Kami, and it provides a multitude of tools for engaging with text. You can easily open a pdf of the fluency passage, record yourself modeling the reading, then assign to your students through Google Classroom. When students open the passage, they can use Kami's tools to annotate the text, listen to your model, record themselves reading, listen back to their own recording, and turn in for you to review. Come learn how to create fluency assignments with Kami and increase the effectiveness of fluency reading in your classroom.

**Presented by Valyssa Roberts & Araceli Roldan**

- Wednesday, February 15, 4:00-5:30p

### **[Registration Form](#)**

#### **Common Math Assessments (K-12)**

Are you ready to design common math assessments and analyze the data with your PLC? Well, this professional development opportunity is for you and your colleagues!

The purpose of this PD is to help teachers design common math assessments and provide tools for conversations when comparing and analyzing the results of these assessments. This process will improve student learning and teacher instruction.

This is a 2-part PD. The purpose of Day One is to develop an understanding of how to create common math assessments. The purpose of Day Two is to learn how to analyze the data from common assessments to inform planning for instruction.

Participants are encouraged to attend with a PLC member to increase the benefits of the PD.

**Presented by Laura Sanzaro and Kiyomi Kwak**

- 1st Series:
  - Part 2 - Wednesday, February 15th, 4:00-5:30p
- 2nd Series:
  - Part 1 - Wednesday, March 1st, 4:00-5:30p
  - Part 2 - Wednesday, March 29th, 4:00-5:30p

### **[Registration Form](#)**

#### **Math Talks (K-6)**

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple." – Dr. Seuss

When students are regularly given opportunities to deconstruct questions and talk about math, tasks that seem complicated can be seen as attainable. This professional development will focus on techniques to incorporate purposeful structured talking opportunities during math instruction. Number talks will be discussed as well as how to implement them within the school day. Finally, participants will learn research-based strategies for classroom discussions that can foster student achievement in mathematics.

**Presented by Laura Sanzaro**

- Wednesday, April 5th, 3:30-5:00p
- Tuesday, May 9th, 3:30-5:00p

### **[Registration Form](#)**

#### **SII: Student Engagement (TK-12)**

Through the use of interaction strategies, explicit feedback, and immediate corrections, teachers can ensure early mastery and build the success rate for every student. Come learn student engagement strategies, their impact on student achievement, and the effectiveness of explicit feedback that is corrective and confirming.

**Presented by Laura Sanzaro, & Valyssa Roberts**

- Tuesday, February 14, 3:30-5:00p (Elementary)
- Tuesday, February 28, 4:00-5:30p (Secondary)

### [Registration Form](#)

#### **SII: Proactive Classroom Management (TK-12)**

Interruptions from off-task student behaviors can derail your lesson, waste learning time, and really drain your energy. Come fill your toolkit with *proactive* classroom management strategies, so you can lessen the frequency of these interruptions and ensure a productive school year for all! This is a 2-part PD.

**Presented by Valyssa Roberts**

- 2-Part Series:
  - Part 1 - Wednesday, March 8, 4:00-5:30p
  - Part 2 - Tuesday, March 14, 4:00-5:30p

### [Registration Form](#)

## **LACOE Virtual Professional Development**

**Our current class offerings, including our SUMMER series are listed below, all classes below are provided virtually using Zoom:**

**Free one-hour PBIS General Awareness Training:** How the PBIS behavioral framework can enhance equity across the system and increase student, staff, and community success. Here is a brief look on the features and how you can gain further support. The only cost is your time. Anyone on your staff may attend.

Below are the dates and times available. You only need to sign up for one time slot.

**March 3rd: 9-10 a.m.** [PBIS\(k12oms.org\)](https://k12oms.org)

**2:30-3:30 p.m.** [PBIS\(k12oms.org\)](https://k12oms.org)

**Enhancing Equity as Part of the School Culture: This class is \$25.** Unconscious associations can affect our understanding, actions, and decisions. This class is about building culturally responsive schools and classrooms that promote tolerance through understanding and healing.

**February 24th:** must register and pay for course by February 17th

**2:30-4:30 p.m.** [PBIS\(k12oms.org\)](https://k12oms.org)

**SEL Toolbox: Helping Educators Intervene When Behaviors Escalate: \*CalHOPE Student Support will provide scholarships for the first 100 participants to register.\*** [CalHOPE Student Support \(scoe.net\)](https://calhope.net). Participants will explore intervention strategies to defuse and minimize escalating challenging behavior. This presentation is for classroom and school leaders who wish to learn about the Escalation Cycle, Social Emotional Learning and Function-based interventions.

**February 24th** must register and pay for course by February 17th

**9-11 a.m.** [PBIS\(k12oms.org\)](https://k12oms.org)

**March 17th** must register and pay for course by March 10th

**9-11 a.m.** [PBIS\(k12oms.org\)](https://k12oms.org)

**Below is the three-part summer series.** Participants can register for one class or all classes in the series. **Each class in the series is \$25 and is registered independent of the rest of the series.**

Payment is due at the time of registration, before June 6th, space is limited, register now to ensure your confirmed enrollment!

**SEL Series - Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. \*CalHOPE Student Support will provide scholarships for the first 100 participants to register.\*** [CalHOPE Student Support \(scoe.net\)](https://scoe.net)

Learn about the core competencies of Social Emotional Learning (SEL), as well as ways to teach and reinforce SEL skills, to support student and staff behavior. Sessions will cover practical strategies in preventing and responding to challenging behavior.

**June 13th:** Interconnecting SEL and Classroom Management [PBIS \(k12oms.org\)](https://k12oms.org)

**June 20th:** SEL Behavior Toolbox: Helping Educators Respond to Challenging Behaviors [PBIS \(k12oms.org\)](https://k12oms.org)

**June 27th:** SEL Behavior Toolbox: Helping Educators Intervene When Behaviors Escalate [PBIS \(k12oms.org\)](https://k12oms.org)

## From NEAToday

### Reclaim Some Joy in Your Classroom!

We're tearing ourselves apart. About pencils.

I kid you not. Pencils. Lines are drawn between those who readily hand out pencils and those who prefer that students bring their own. As I've read impassioned tweets and watched TikToks from both camps, I've grown increasingly concerned. Not about pencils. About us.

Pencils clearly aren't the problem. They are a symptom of the real problem, of our fatigue, our discouragement, and the severe professional exhaustion that is driving too many dedicated teachers from their classrooms and leaving many others depleted of the joy they once found in their profession.

Some say the answer is engagement, that if a teacher is engaging enough, students will behave. But there's no single solution. It's too complex, too human for any one strategy, resource, or ideology to solve. Do we have reason to believe high engagement correlates to fewer classroom management problems? Yes. Is it a guarantee? No.

But there is hope. We can reclaim some joy. These boredom busters are low-prep activities that transform worksheets into engaging, meaningful, fun learning experiences.

#### PAPER AIRPLANES

Distribute a worksheet, have students put their name at the top, and answer the first problem. Then they each fold the worksheet into a paper airplane. At your signal, they launch their airplanes. Students pick a plane and answer the next problem. Repeat until the worksheet is done. Then students reclaim their original paper, consider all the answers, and correct them as needed.

#### MUSICAL DESKS

Cut apart a worksheet, leaving one question on each desk with a piece of paper. Turn on some music. Students pick up their pencils and boogie through the room. When you stop the music, they sit at the nearest desk and answer that problem. When you restart the music, they leave the paper, pick up their

pencils again, and move. Repeat, but now when students sit at a desk, they prove the answer right, solve it another way, correct it, etc.

#### VARIATIONS

- Differentiate using different colors of paper. You can copy different worksheets or assignments, each on a different color of paper. Distribute the appropriate assignment to each student, and then students continue the paper airplane or musical desk activity by exchanging with the same color paper they started with. This allows all students to participate in the same activity together while working with an assignment just right for them.
- Write essays or solve multistep problems. Each student starts the essay or problem and exchanges with another student before it's all the way done. The next person continues the essay or problem the way their classmate started it. Repeat so that each student contributes to a few essays or problems.
- Students can ask the questions! Each student writes a question, and then they do paper airplanes or musical desks to receive someone else's question and answer it.

#### FRUSTRATION BUSTERS

What if a student refuses to get started? You can still reclaim some control. A frustration buster can help us understand our own feelings and help students get past inertia and back to the learning.

First, have the student read or explain the directions to you to ensure they understand what to do. Then offer them a low-stakes choice: "Do you want to start on the first one or the last one?" "Do you want to work at your desk or at the table?" This helps lower the sense of threat and invites engagement.

Next, work a problem with them. Students' perceptions of their capabilities are not always accurate. Working a problem together confirms for us—and them—that they really can do it. Still stuck? Scribe for them. They talk, and you write.

By now, there are probably 17,412 hands raised in your room, even though you have only 29 students. Consider setting the stuck student up with a partner. Give them five minutes to complete another problem or two, then return to check in on them. Repeat steps as needed and gradually extend the independent work time.

Will it always work? No. But maybe it will help both you and the student stay calm, and, most important, keep the focus on the learning.

*Powell, author of [Boredom Busters](#), has served as a special education teacher, Title 1 teacher, instructional coach, and classroom teacher. She is currently a director at the Association for Middle Level Education.*

## Conferences

### Good Teaching Conference - South

The CTA Good Teaching Conferences continue to support excellent teaching and learning practices for classroom teachers via peer-to-peer



instruction. March 3-5, 2023. Click here for more information. Contact [voiceofBTA@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofBTA@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending.

<https://www.cta.org/event/2023-gtcsouth>

## Have you joined PTA?

Did you know that you can still join PTA and support your school? PTA does a lot of great things for our kids, and teachers too, so if you haven't joined, please do!



[www.bellflowercouncilpta.org/p/join-our-ptas.html](http://www.bellflowercouncilpta.org/p/join-our-ptas.html)

## Grants

### Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Program

The CTA [Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Program](#) encourages Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) students to become educators, school nurses, school counselors or school therapists and to promote professional growth for BIPOC teachers and Education Support Professional members. Award amounts are up to \$6,000. Check eligibility and find the application [here](#). Deadline to apply: Feb. 10.

### IFT Grant Program: Applications Open Dec. 1

CTA's [Institute for Teaching](#) grant program has transformed classrooms, schools and school communities. All members are eligible to apply for an Educator grant (up to \$5,000) or an Impact grant (up to \$20,000) which can be used to engage members and support strength-based, teacher-driven creativity, passion and innovation. Read more at [cta.org/ift](http://cta.org/ift). Application submission period: Dec. 1, 2022-March 31, 2023.

### Email your Board Members

Whew! The election is over, and now the work begins. Please reach out to the board members and let them know your concerns, invite them to your classrooms, share the exciting things going on at your site.

Mayra Garza (President ) [mayragarza@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:mayragarza@busd.k12.ca.us)

Brad Crihfield (Vice President) [bradcrihfield@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:bradcrihfield@busd.k12.ca.us)

Amie Stewart (Clerk) [amiestewart@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:amiestewart@busd.k12.ca.us)

Renita Armstrong (Member) [renitaarmstrong@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:renitaarmstrong@busd.k12.ca.us)

Sue ElHessen (Member) [Selhessen@busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Selhessen@busd.k12.ca.us)



# Events

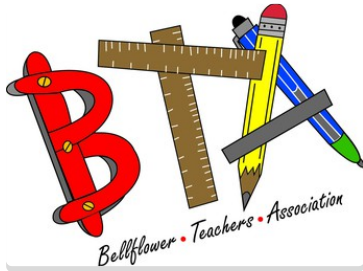
## School Board Meeting

When

Thursday, Feb. 9th, 6pm


Where

16703 Clark Avenue Bellflower, CA




## Bellflower Teachers Association

 Facebook

 17434 Studebaker Road, Cerrit...

 voiceofBTA@gmail.com

 5629249311

 bellflowerteachers.com