

# aea Newsletter

Acalanes Education Association



[www.acalanesteachers.org](http://www.acalanesteachers.org)



@AcalanesEA

## RETIREMENT: WILL YOU BE READY?

Take some time to look at your STRS account and use the calculator to figure out how much retirement you will receive from STRS after retiring. Visit [calstrs.com/calculators](http://calstrs.com/calculators) to experiment with the calculator. Depending on your age/years of service/sick leave/ & highest years of salary you will likely need more to live on. CTA estimates you will need approximately 50% more than your STRS pension to live on, therefore you should be saving more. Since we will not be receiving Social Security, it's up to each of us to make up the difference in your saving accounts now (the sooner the better!). There are many options out there to choose from: 403(b) pre-tax investments in, annuities and mutual funds,, the stock market, Roth IRA, etc. Many of these investment types have high fees that go to the sales person, fees at the front end and the back end of the savings (when you put money in AND when you take your money out- these are called "loads"); they are not designed with your best interests in mind. We should all be working with a person called a **Fiduciary**. This is a person who will help you with your investments and (legally) has to have your best interest in mind. Do you already have investments? Ask your "guy" if he/she is a fiduciary. These folks will not take a kick back from a third party administrator that helps the district manage our



investments (such as American Fidelity) and they will honestly and ethically help you invest for your future.

CTA has an endorsed plan for members that has no loads, very small fees, no early withdraw/transfer penalties and good return for the investment. It is called the CTA RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN. This can be set up through this website [enroll.ctaretirementplan.org](http://enroll.ctaretirementplan.org) and only takes a few minutes. Your savings will be taken out of your AUHSD check by a company called ENVOY and your money will be tax sheltered - this means it gets pulled out of your check before you get taxed. Making it automatic and tax sheltered eases the pain of savings.

*We are working to set up a workshop for our members so you can learn more about these investment do's and don'ts - Stay tuned!*

### Savings Tricks

- ★ Make it automatic
- ★ Bank your tax adjustments
- ★ Save half of your raises
- ★ Save your tax refund
- ★ Treat your savings like a priority bill
- ★ Start young (it's never too late!)

## CALENDAR VOTE

The 2020-21 calendar with the earlier spring break (March 29 - April 2) got a majority of the votes. Thanks to those of you who voted. The Board also approved this calendar.

## BLOCK SCHEDULE FOR NEXT YEAR

AEA Block Schedule Committee met with the District team on February 13th. The Block Schedule will stay the same for next year. This coming year will be our 3rd year of Block. We appreciate the time you took to share your important feedback with us on the survey!

## AEA SCHOLARSHIPS: CAREERS IN EDUCATION

AEA is pleased to offer four \$250 [scholarships](#) (one per comprehensive site) for AUHSD seniors interested in pursuing a career in education. Students may speak to their College & Career Counselor for more information. Applicants will submit one letter of recommendation online via [ScholarsShop.com](#) as well as answer a series of questions. The committee will select winners by early May and winners will receive their award at Senior Awards Night at each site. Please encourage any seniors considering a career in education to apply!

## DENTAL & VISION INSURANCE

Consider making those eye and dental appointments and use your benefits to their fullest. We have great coverage for eye checkups and glasses/contacts with VSP (Vision Service Plan) and for teeth cleaning and correction with Delta Dental. The way VSP and Delta Dental works is that if we over-utilize what they estimated our costs would be, the District has to pay more, and if we under-utilize, the District gets money back. This year we under-utilized our vision plan and the District received \$20,000 back from SISC because of it. So, instead of giving it back to the District - use it!



## CTA & ALCOSTA BREAKFAST THE BOARD MEMBERS

On February 23rd three of our AEA members, Elizabeth Gough, Patrick Wildermuth and Sarah Morgan met two of our Board members at the annual CTA/ALCOSTA sponsored breakfast. This was an excellent opportunity for us to get to know Bob Hockett and Kristen Connelly. They were very interested in listening to the speakers talk about being involved in educational support and standing up for our students. They also asked us many questions about our school sites and seemed genuinely enthusiastic about being on our board.



## IMPORTANT DATES

- March 6: AUHSD Governing Board Meeting
- March 7: AEA Rep Council (3:45 at Las Lomas)
- March 9-10, 2019: CTA New Educator Conference (in Burlingame)
- March 11: Site PD day
- March 14: CTA/Alcosta President's Forum
- March 15: Deadline for preliminary lay-off notices to be issued
- March 18: Negotiations (2pm at D.O.)
- March 20: AUHSD Governing Board meeting
- March 22: Negotiations (11:30 at D.O.)
- April 1-7: SPRING BREAK!!