



F.O.N.T. Focus On New Teachers

A publication of the Farmingdale Federation of Teachers

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A Warm Welcome to All New Farmingdale Teachers!

Hello new Farmingdale teachers and welcome to the district! You are now a part of the wonderful Farmingdale family. This publication is just for you and your mentors. There will be useful information in this newsletter that will keep you informed about what is going on in our district. It will also provide you with ideas for making your first year a success! Please feel free to suggest topics you would like to see addressed in this publication.

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This issue is designed to give you some information as to how to navigate the beginning of the school year and to inform you about the purpose of the FFT. It will also introduce you to your union officers and how you can reach them.

First, you need to get to know Margaret Bertolotti. Margaret is the office administrator for the FFT and she has a wealth of information about everything related to the union office and the Benefit Fund. If you have questions about the benefits for which you are eligible, call her and she will be happy to help you. If you prefer, you can stop by the office and introduce yourself to her. You can reach the union office at this number:

1(631)249-0773.

The FFT officers are also able to help you with whatever issues that may arise and are available to speak with you at the following extensions:

- Cordelia Anthony, President Ext. 303
- Brian Reilly, First Vice President Ext. 302
- Emily Geiger, Second Vice President Ext. 304
- James Hughes, Third Vice President Ext. 305
- Rosalie Longo, Treasurer Ext. 306
- Linda McCoskey, Secretary Ext. 307

Your union is here to help you. We are here to provide you with information and guidance. We hope you have a successful September and that you are settling in to your new position. Remember, you can always visit our website at <http://www.farmingdaleteachers.org> to get information about what's going on in education, read FFT publications, or download Benefit Fund forms.

We're on the Web:
[http://
www.farmingdaleteachers.org](http://www.farmingdaleteachers.org)

Farmingdale Federation
of Teachers

We are located at:

100 Broadhollow Rd.

Suite 104

1 (631)249-0773

PURPOSE OF THE FFT

The Farmingdale Federation of Teachers is an organization whose purposes are:

1. To formulate and to carry out a progressive program for the improvement of local service
2. To help solve the problems which concern its members in their local school relationships
3. To encourage each teacher to do his task in the most effective manner
4. To provide a forum for the discussion of educational and professional organization problems of the NYS and nation
5. To encourage and maintain high qualifications for entrance into the teaching profession, to aid in securing and maintaining adequate salaries, sound retirement systems, tenure and such other improvements and conditions as will enable teachers to function properly as a vital factor in educational progress
6. To render services to the community

Top 10 Tips for Classroom Discipline & Management

Here are a few ideas that may help allay your fears about classroom discipline. They are skills that are not only learned, but practiced daily. They can help you cut down on discipline problems and leave your with fewer interruptions and disruptions.

1. **Start firm, then relax.** Start out by setting a strict precedent early in the year and then you can relax it a bit as the year progresses.
2. **Fairness is key.** You should act fairly and consistently with all students if you want to be respected by them. Be equitable.
3. **Deal with disruptions with as little disruption as possible.** Immediately handle disruptions with as little interruption to the flow of the lesson as possible.
4. **Avoid confrontations in front of other students.** It is much better to deal with discipline issues privately than to cause a student to "lose face" in front of his peers.
5. **Stop disruptions with humor.** A good laugh can actually defuse a situation and get things back on track. Use your best judgement to determine whether something is funny or offensive.
6. **Keep expectations high.** Expect that students will behave and succeed. Set high goals for them and convey these goals and expectations to your classes.
7. **Over plan.** Free time during classes should be avoided. Over plan so that students are not left inactive and bored.
8. **Be consistent.** Enforce your rules and policies every time. Say what you mean and mean what you say.
9. **Make rules clear.** Be selective about your rules. Do not have too many, but make clear the consequences for breaking them.
10. **Start fresh everyday.** Do not make assumptions that each day will like the previous day. Take opportunities to clear the slate and begin again.

Have a great school year!!!

Linda McCoskey

Editor and FFT Secretary