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NYSUT Local # 13-265  
AFT Local #3082 affiliated with NEA \* AFL-CIO

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Jordan Dirago, Editor

# iMP@CT

## President's Message, Rich Shands

Dear WTA Members,

I have started this message three times. I thought that I would share information about health and safety, APPR, state testing and other realities that we are living together. Upon thinking about it, health and safety is an on-going process that we all need to be vigilant about. We must follow all the protocols and question anything that does not feel right. I know it is unsettling to get the almost daily updates from the district about exposure or possible exposure. That is why we can't become complacent. I had to take the idea from a colleague about setting an alarm to remember to do the health survey every morning!

Health and safety will remain the number one concern for us. In terms of APPR and state testing, we don't have much news yet. Any updates we get will be communicated as soon as we get them.

Just a few shout outs:

To our new members : Rebecca DiGiacomo (Leptondale), Carlos Mercado (High School), and Dulce Nunez (Middle School)  
Welcome!

To our members who have served in the district for 25 years:  
Dawn Amthor, Chris Canosa, Gina DeToro, Dave Moore, and Tanya Yuro-Clark Congratulations and thank you!!

### Inside this issue

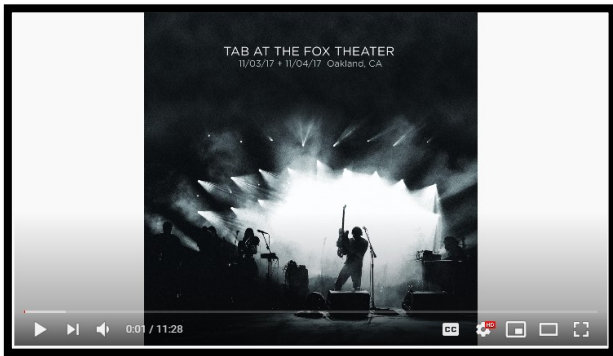
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## President's Message Continued

The last shoutout is to the whole membership. You are all making the best of a difficult situation. I will say it again. This is a marathon. We cannot make an imperfect situation perfect. We will do our best, but we cannot do everything this year. We can't end up feeling like we aged ten years.

Music has been a huge help to me with all this going on. I want to share a song with you that has more than ever resonated with me. We all have our playlist that helps us get through. Let's make the best of this, be safe and in the meantime, Just Hold Tight. Thank you all!



Trey Anastasio—Everything's Right (11/3/2017)

[https://youtu.be/v9a\\_r8R3SX0](https://youtu.be/v9a_r8R3SX0)

## Welcome New Faculty

### High School -

Carlos Mercado, Spanish Teacher

### JGBMS -

Dulce Nunes, Spanish Teacher

### Leptondale -

Rebecca DiGiacomo, Third Grade Special Education Teacher



## 25 Year Members

Submitted by: **Melissa Servant**

WTA would like to congratulate the following individuals for being a special part of our district for the past 25 years:

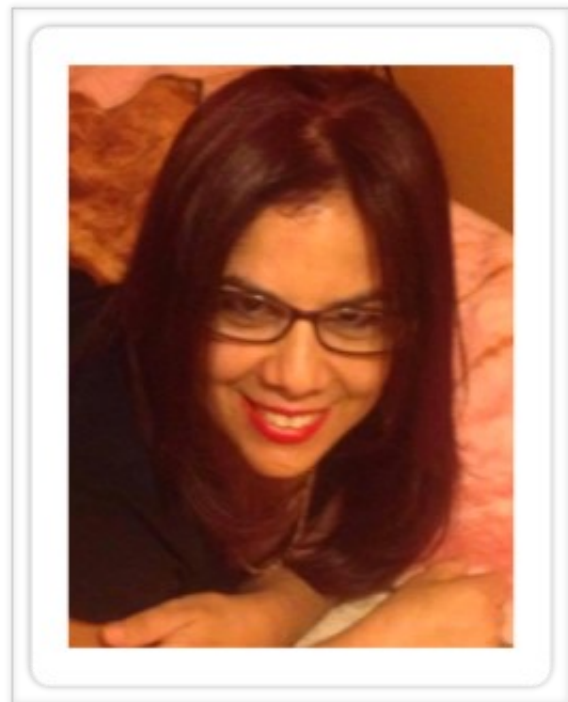
- *Dawn Amthor*
- *Chris Canosa*
- *Gina DeToro*
- *Dave Moore*
- *Tanya Yuro-Clark*



## Get to Know: Our Newest Members

### Dulce Nuñez (Middle School)

My name is Dulce Nuñez but now it's Nunez because in the United States they don't use the letter ñ. I was born in the beautiful country of the Dominican Republic. I am the first generation of my family to have a degree from both sides of the family. In my country I studied Journalism and because it is so hard to progress over there, I decided to come to this country looking for new opportunities. I have two young adults who finished college and my youngest child is currently enrolled in college. While my children were in H.S I was PTA President for 4 years and PTA Treasure for 2 years because I love to help, and I love to be involved in my kid's lives.

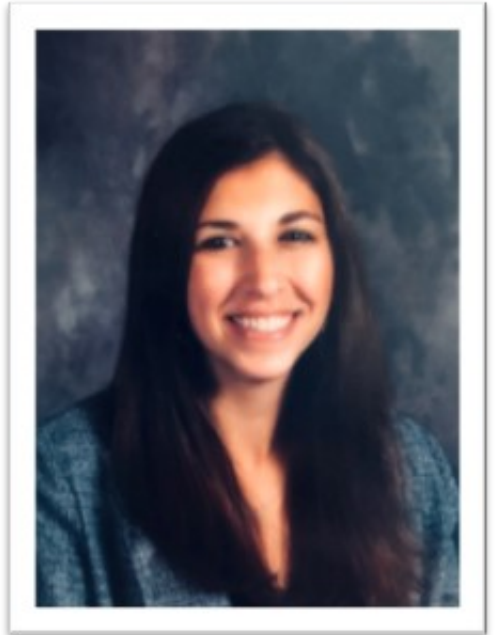


I raised my children alone and after working in a hotel for nine years. I decided to go back to college and do my Masters in Spanish Secondary Education 7-12 in City College. I love studying and learning new things. I went back to college again and just this month I will finish my Advance Certificate in Special Education 7-12. My motto is "Los días me van a pasar cómo quiera, que me pasen estudiando." I believe that a teacher should be a person who loves children, who loves to teach, and who loves to help and that is exactly who I am. I decided to come to this wonderful place following my daughter. I am so happy with the love and the help that I found in John G Borden. M.S. Working here is a privilege and a dream come true. My dream doesn't stop here. I will continue learning from the teachers, from the students and from life until I can become the best teacher I can be.

## Get to Know: Our Newest Members

### Rebecca DiGiacomo (Leptondale Elementary)

My name is Rebecca DiGiacomo. I am beyond excited to be teaching special education in third grade this year! I grew up in Poughkeepsie and went to Spackenkill High School. I have a BA in English from SUNY Albany and earned my MA in Childhood Education and Special Education from NYU. After teaching special education in Brooklyn for six years, I moved to Nashville, TN for two years. While in Nashville, I taught fourth grade ELA and social studies. My husband, dog, cat, and I now live in LaGrange. I am thrilled to be a part of the Leptondale community!



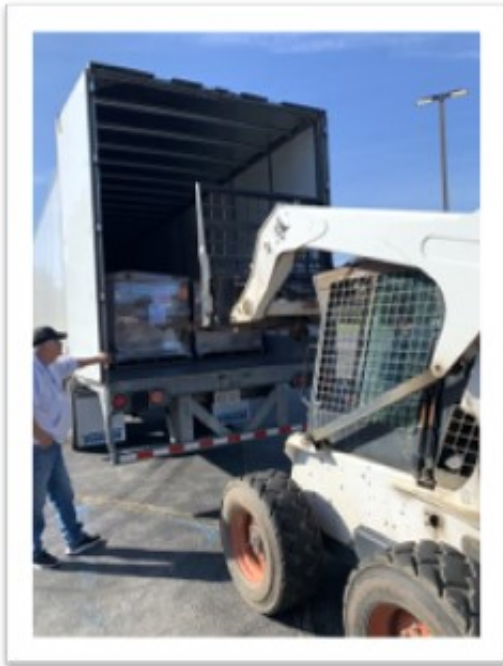
### Carlos Mercado (High School)

Hey all! My name is Carlos Mercado and I am the new Spanish teacher at Wallkill Senior High School. My journey to becoming a Spanish teacher started in September 2013 when I enrolled in the Jointly Registered Teacher Education Program (JRTEP) at SUNY Orange and it concluded in December 2017, when I graduated from SUNY New Paltz. During my last semester at SUNY New Paltz, I decided to study abroad in the country where Spanish originated, Spain. I spent about six months in Spain, traveling to the various provinces and continually learning Spanish from different parts of the region. This is technically my first, full academic year of teaching. (What a great time to start a teaching career! [Sarcasm.]) Last year, I was a Spanish teacher in the Florida Union Free School District starting in the previous November and I stayed until June, all while COVID was beginning to impact schools and the rest of the world. I am happy to be here at Wallkill and I am looking forward to what Wallkill has in store for me!

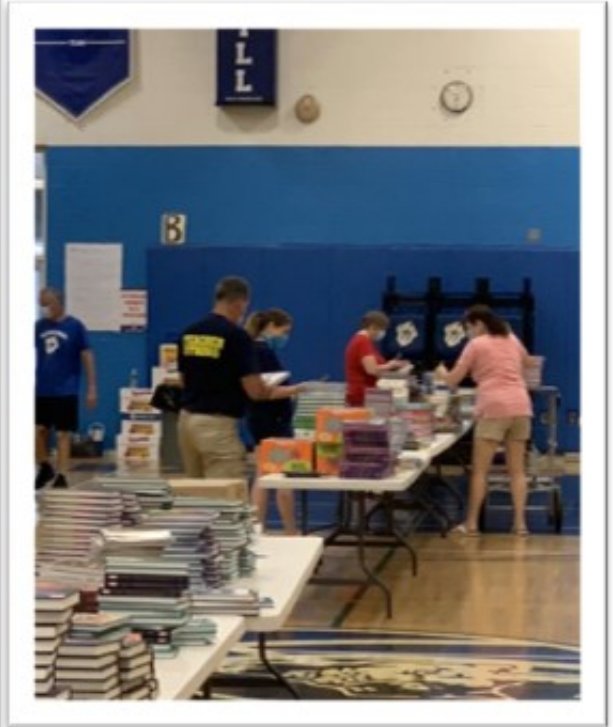
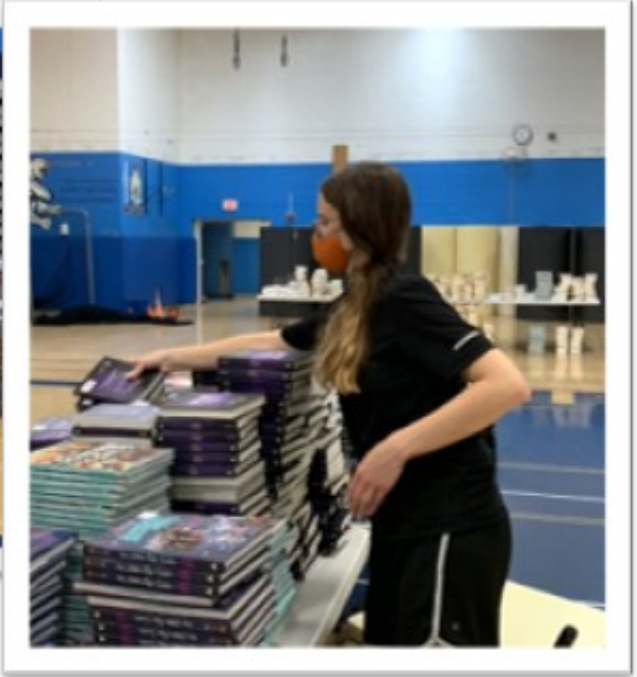
# WTA Summer Book Project

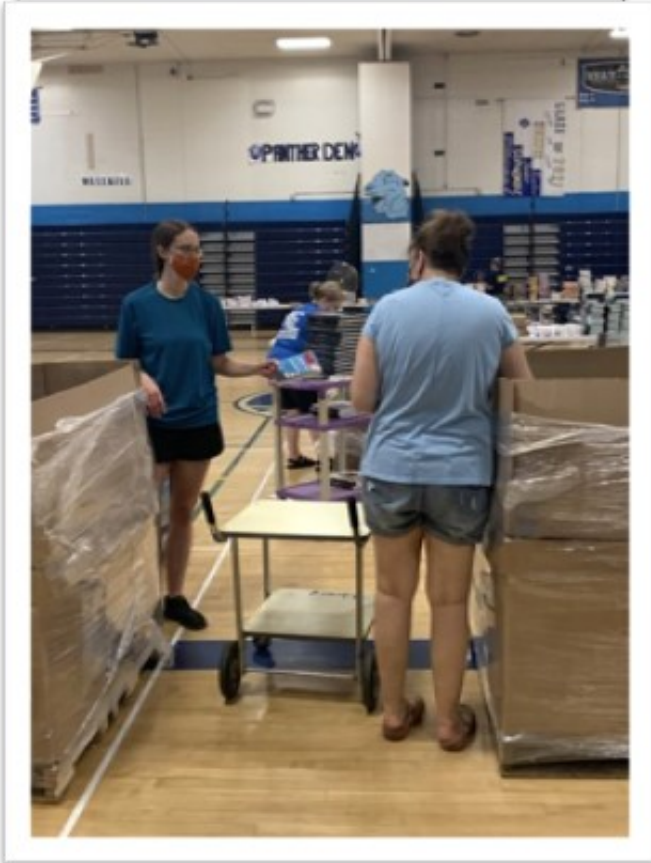
Submitted by: Libbie Werlau

Special Thanks for all your support!















# WTA Retirement Workshop

Submitted by: Rich Shands

The WTA will be hosting an informal workshop via Zoom for anyone planning on retiring this school year. WTA Officers will be present and we will arrange for Wallkill Retirees to be in attendance as well.

The purpose of this workshop is to go over “writing the retirement letter” and remind you of the things that you need to do prior to retirement. The retirees (having been through the process) will be able to tell you about things that you may not think about.

A zoom link will be sent out prior to December 14th.

If you are planning on attending, please respond by Friday, December 11th. [rshands@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:rshands@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).



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Nov./Dec.'20