

December 2024  
BEA Bits and Briefs

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# BEA Monthly Spotlight

Nominate a co-worker [here](#) to share with us all of the phenomenal work they are doing!



# BEA Monthly Spotlight



Aline Silva, Abi Buckley, and Mallory Ruth of Laurel Literacy Academy are being celebrated this month. These teachers span kindergarten through second grade. Their colleagues share that they are all new teachers who have been, “Knocking it out of the park with great classroom management, instruction, and learning, and building relationships with their students.” Keep up the great work ladies, we are happy to have you on our Bloomfield team!

# BEA Monthly Spotlight



Aline Silva, Kindergarten teacher at Laurel Literacy Academy, received a second nomination this month! Coworkers share that, “Ms. Silva is a new teacher this year that has a great relationship with staff and students. Ms. Silva is also spreading positivity in the building and checks on anyone having a tough day!” Your efforts for both students and colleagues do not go unnoticed Ms. Silva, thank you for all of your efforts.

# BEA Monthly Spotlight



Colleen McCaughey of Bloomfield High School is also being recognized this month! Her coworkers share that, “She is always pushing to boost morale with staff and students. Last year she went above and beyond and redid the teacher’s lounge at the high school and this year she is starting student of the month.” Way to go Colleen, your efforts to improve school climate at BHS are seen and appreciated!

# BEA Monthly Spotlight



BHS colleagues are recognizing Mary Jarvis an agriscience teacher of BHS for, "Consistently upholding high expectations for both herself and others. She also prioritizes creating a safe and supportive environment for students, fostering their well-being and success." Way to be an example

# BEA Monthly Spotlight



Sheila Morris, an 8th grade teacher at CAMS is also being recognized by her colleagues this month. They share that, “ Ms. Morris is gracefully balancing the demands of being a teacher, a team leader, a student in a doctoral program, as well as having a family. She has great relationships with her students and her colleagues.” Way to set an amazing example for us all Ms. Morris, thank you for all you do!

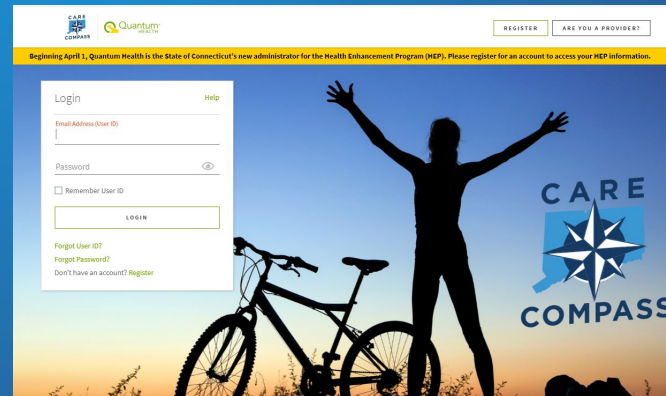
# BEA Monthly Spotlight



Andrew Taylor, a 7th grade teacher at CAMS, is being recognized by his coworkers for being, "Passionate about teaching his students writing while they learn about geography. He frequently uses humor in his lessons, which, in addition to being appreciated by his students, helps them learn." Thank you Mr. Taylor for your commitment to our students!

# Stay in the know!

If you received a letter from the Office of the State Comptroller stating that you are out of compliance for HEP, simply contact the Quantum Health Care Coordinators at 833-740-3258 or visit the website [carecompass.ct.gov](http://carecompass.ct.gov) for instructions on what to do to become compliant.



# Stay in the know!

- Interested in learning more about our Union, join the BEA Bylaws Committee - email for more details!
- Please see the updated MOA regarding stipend positions [here](#).
- There are still negotiations occurring for the athletic and after school stipend positions at GEMS that are funded through grants.
- 11/22, 12/6, 12/20 paychecks should have a slightly increased deduction for dental/vision and medical deductions to make up for the 9/27 deduction error. Checks should go back to normal deductions on 1/3/2025. Please email me if you see a problem.

# Stay in the Know!

## What does dismantling the Department of Education mean?

Adapted from NEA Leaders for Just Schools Training

With the shift in presidential leadership, there is the potential for major changes to the Department of Education. Take a look at an adapted presentation from a recent NEA training by selecting the image above.

# Teacher Evaluation

This year we have a new evaluation plan. To access the handbook, you need to be logged into Google with your Bloomfieldschools log in, but it can be found here: [BPS Teacher Evaluation Handbook](#)

Teachers that are in year one or two, you are required to turn in lesson plans and have a pre-conference meeting. The language regarding these details are on pages 19-20 of the handbook and are on the next slide.

If you have questions, I would advise you to reach out to Calla Leonardo, our TEval Coordinator at [criccio@blmfld.org](mailto:criccio@blmfld.org).

# Teacher Evaluation

- ★ Teachers in year one or two will have a pre-conference before each of the first two mini observations. Teachers in year 3 or more do not require pre-conferences, but can request.

## Mini Observation Process

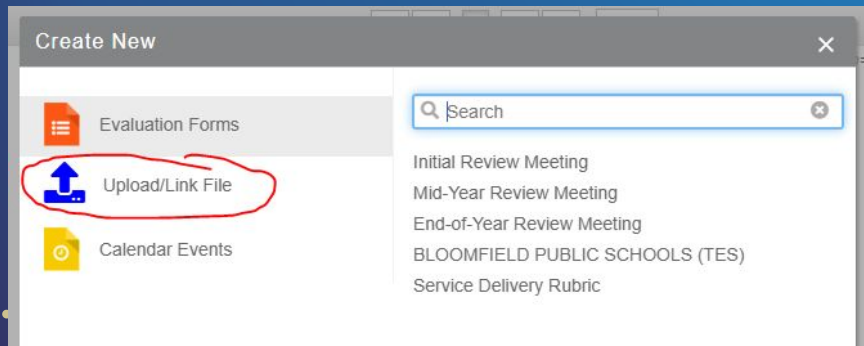
- Evaluators observe the non-tenured teacher for up to 30 minutes, the tenured teacher for up to 30 minutes, and record feedback using the observation app or website on their mobile device.
- ★ In preparation for pre-conferences, as required, educators must upload a copy of the lesson/observation plan at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled pre-conference meeting. With lesson/observation plans accessible, the pre-conference will be framed by the following prompts: What do you want students to learn? How will you know if they learned it? How will you respond if they don't learn it? How will you extend learning for those who are already proficient?
- Post-conference discussions will be framed using the following prompts: Based on your lesson/observation plan: What worked and how do you know? What didn't work and how do you know? Based on evidence, what have you learned about your practices and learners? How will you apply that learning in the future?
- Evaluators must submit feedback within 24 hours of the observation, aiming to submit feedback the same day.
- Administrative Assistant schedules a post-observation conference no later than 72 hours after the observation. *If the administrator is out of the district for this period of time, the face-to-face feedback must be completed within two school days of the return to the district.*

# Teacher Evaluation

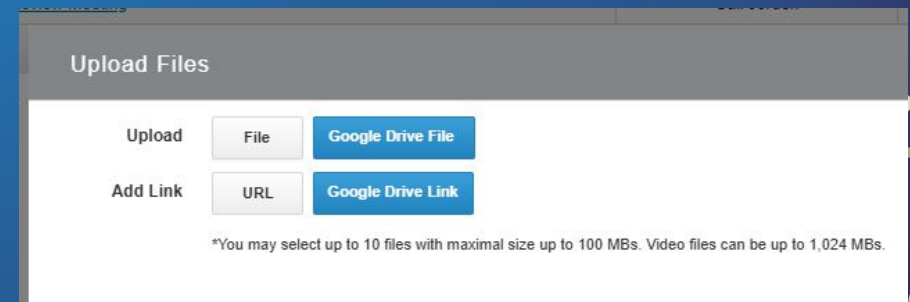
To upload your lesson plan, select the profile button on the left, then select the green “new” button.



Next, select upload file.



Finally, select your file.



# To Do List

**Your Pension—Your Future**  
**The Facts About WEP/GPO**

**REPEAL THE  
STEAL**

**WEP/GPO MUST GO**

- \* Select the image above to learn more about WEP/GPO and how it will impact you. Write a letter to our senators today!

# Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, December 10th 7:00-8:30pm Bloomfield Board of Education meeting now has a Zoom option, join and listen in!
  - Wednesday, December 18 4:00-5:00pm Bloomfield Young and Union Charcuterie Board Social - registration is closed
- Wednesday, December 18 4:00-6:15pm Virtual Retirement Workshop - register online
- Tuesday, January 28, 2025 Virtual County Palooza - register online

# Member Champion Deals



To better serve you, all membership enrollments and renewals for CEA members will now be processed through the **BJ's Partnership Support Center**.

**BJ's Partnership Support Center details**

**Phone Number:** 800-313-8887

**Hours of Operation:** Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM -6:00 PM EST

When you call in, all you will need is the following information –

CEA 'Group Promo Code': 350096

Debit or credit card information

If a current BJ's member, a membership ID which can be found on their BJ's membership card or from within the BJ's app

Here is the current offer:

**NEW MEMBER OFFER:**

The Club+ Card at \$60 is a SUPERB value! You will earn 2% on your shopping and get an extra 5 cents off at the gas pump!

or

try us out at the basic Club level for only \$20 (12 months/ 2 cards)

Both offers also include one household member card at no charge. (2 cards total on membership.) This applies to NEW members only...previous or existing members are not eligible for new member rates.

For questions or assistance, contact Debbie Lisonbee, BJ's representative for CEA, at [dlisonbee@bjs.com](mailto:dlisonbee@bjs.com).

# BEA Officers 2023-2024

President: Gail Jorden  
Vice President: Marissa Mancini  
Treasurer: Lynn DeBlasio  
Secretary: Lynne Dumas  
Membership Chair: Melinda Mellady  
Grievance: Katrina Kucinskis

Political Action Chair:  
Magnolia Coates

## BEA Building Reps 2023-2024

Wintonbury (Pre-K)  
Lisa Thomas 2024-2025  
Amy Lomnicky 2024-2026

Laurel (Grades Pre-K – 2)  
Rose Rose - 2024-2026  
Melanie Gabel 2023-2025

Metacomet (Grades 3 – 4)  
James Verano 2023-2025  
Elka Spencer 2023-2025

Carmen Arace (Grades 5 – 8)  
Jacqueline Springer 2024-2026  
Cheryl Bleiler 2023-2025

GEMS (Grades 6 – 12)  
Amelia Dodd - 2024-2026  
Thomas Rubino 2023-2025

Bloomfield High School (Grades 9 – 12)  
Ross Siegel 2023-2025  
Jennifer Neal 2023-2025  
Colleen McCaughey 2023-2025  
Mary Jarvis 2023-2025

CEA is here to help members focus on themselves and their own well-being.



While many factors contribute to the high levels of stress teachers are experiencing, perhaps most significant are the impacts of the pandemic on students, teachers, and their families; the increase in the number of students coming to school with serious mental health and emotional problems, violent outbursts, and withdrawn behaviors; the current political landscape, marked by a lack of trust and respect; and the teacher shortage that has educators working harder than ever.



Positive Directions is a nonprofit behavioral health organization providing a continuum of prevention, treatment, and recovery supports for mental health and/or substance use challenges. Their state-licensed outpatient treatment clinic consists of a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and prescribers providing individual and group therapy, as well as medical management, to adolescents and adults. Treatment areas include anxiety, depression, grief and loss, trauma, and more.



Register for the free counseling sessions at [cea.org/mental-health-support-group-counseling](https://cea.org/mental-health-support-group-counseling).



Have questions? Want more info?  
Email [teacherwell-being@cea.org](mailto:teacherwell-being@cea.org).

## TEACHER WELL-BEING

### Get The Support You Need



CEA has contracted to offer free confidential mental health group counseling for our members to provide support, healing, and innovative strategies that foster wellness and avoid burnout.

CEA has contracted Positive Directions to offer free confidential mental health group counseling for our members. See the enlarged flyer [here](#).



## TEACHER WELL-BEING IS PARAMOUNT

With the right support for managing stress, opportunities to connect with colleagues, and access to counseling experts, CEA is helping teachers focus on their own mental health and wellness.

*"After the past few years, taking care of teachers is vital. Teachers who have strategies to manage their own stress and secondary trauma are in a good place, where they can give their best to caring for and educating their students."*

Kate Dias  
CEA President



## TEACHERS' HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING

If you are feeling overwhelmed or highly anxious, you are **not** alone.

We understand that teaching is difficult work, and the pandemic has put even greater pressure on educators.

CEA, in partnership with Positive Directions, has designed a special program that focuses on your mental health needs and helps prevent burnout.

Licensed clinicians will facilitate two virtual group counseling sessions for CEA members:

- 1. General Support Group**  
Trained clinicians will help educators manage stress and learn effective coping strategies to prevent burnout.
- 2. DCF Support Group**  
When a teacher is accused of improper conduct, it can be scary and stressful. Licensed clinicians will lead this group and provide counseling and support for educators involved in Department of Children and Families investigations. The DCF Support Group will offer tools for building resilience and dealing with the emotional trauma and upheaval caused by accusations of wrongdoing and attacks on a teacher's reputation.

Both groups will be conducted by trained clinicians and are confidential. Only CEA members will participate in these sessions, and space is limited.

Providing these unique counseling sessions will help teachers manage their symptoms and reinforce that they are not alone.



Register for the free counseling sessions at [cea.org/mental-health-support-group-counseling](https://cea.org/mental-health-support-group-counseling).

