



Information Update: Important Reminders for the Month of October

10/5/26

The first few days of October have been extremely busy, and it is important to make sure that you are informed about your contractual rights and the opportunities you have to engage in the work of your union.

First, this week (10/5 through 10/9) is a block out week. That means there are no meetings allowed before/after school or during the student academic day. This is due to the end of the grading period and the Teacher Duty Day that is scheduled for Monday, October 12. The only time a meeting is allowed is if it is an IEP, 504, or MTSS meeting and those should be few and far between. The purpose of this contractual language is to preserve your planning and to afford you the time needed to complete grades and any other paperwork that is required to close out the grading period. If you are scheduled for any meetings this week, please check with your steward or VUE representative.

As a reminder, on the Teacher Duty Day on Monday, October 12, administration is allowed to take up to half of the day for attendance at faculty meetings, department meetings, grade level meetings, curriculum meetings, in-service meetings, PLC, etc., but the meeting must end prior to lunch and you are to receive a one (1) hour duty free lunch. Paraprofessionals will report to campus on October 12. This is one of the additional days worked in the 185-day calendar year.

Next, bargaining will continue for TSPs and Instructional personnel on Tuesday, October 6. TSPs will bargain from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the VUE office and Instructional will bargain at **DAC** beginning at 4:30 pm. It is very important to have members in the boardroom for this bargaining session. Approximately half of the instructional personnel in VCS do not have a salary agreement in place. We are not so far apart that an agreement cannot be reached. When we show up it makes a difference. PLEASE put on something **red**, bring a friend, and join us for bargaining. **It's time to get this deal done!**

Bargaining for our ESPs (office specialists and paras) will continue on Monday, October 19 at Olson at 4:30 pm. This will be our second meeting, and we expect a counter proposal from the district to our initial salary and benefit proposal. We need our ESPs to join us. If you can attend, please wear your **brightest red**, grab a coworker and head over to Olson. We need you there if we are going to get what we need!

Also, it is important to point out that on Tuesday, October 13, the members of the school board will hold their monthly meeting. If you do not like the direction the district is headed, or if you are not happy with your pay, benefits, or working conditions, we invite you to attend the school board meeting. The meeting begins at 4:30 pm, and public participation is at 6:00 pm. We recommend being in the boardroom by 5:30 pm. If you

would like to speak to the board, please let us know and we can help you with the process.

Finally, we wanted to share that we have started our school lunch visits for the 26-27 school year. We want to give a **HUGE SHOUT OUT** to Amy Miller and our friends at Tomoka Elementary. We visited them on Friday October 2nd, and we recruited 5 NEW MEMBERS while we were there. This only happens when we talk with our friends about the power of our union and the strength we have when we stand together. Thank you, Amy and all VUE members at Tomoka for building a strong union culture at the home of the “Braves”! 😊

We have created a calendar below to help you manage all that is going on this month. You can also visit the VUE website calendar at <https://www.ourvue.net/calendar/>.

 October 2026 If You Work Here, You Belong In Your Union!						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 BLOCK OUT WEEK	6 BLOCK OUT WEEK TSP Bargaining 11:30 am - 1:00 pm VUE Instructional Bargaining 4:30 pm DAC	7 BLOCK OUT WEEK	8 BLOCK OUT WEEK Executive Board 5:00 pm VUE	9 BLOCK OUT WEEK VUE Lunch Spirit Elementary	10
11	12 Teacher Duty Day Paras report No students	13 School Board Meeting 4:30 pm DAC Public participation: 6:00 pm	14	15 VUE Steward Meeting 6:00 pm Zoom	16 VUE Lunch Holly Hill Elementary	17
18	19 ESP Bargaining OS and Paras 4:30 pm Olson	20	21	22 Government Relations Committee 5:00 pm Zoom	23 VUE Lunch Taylor Middle/High	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 VUE Lunch DeLand Middle School	31
VUE = Union office DAC = DeLand Administrative Complex Zoom = Virtual meeting Lunch times will be shared separately.						

In Solidarity,

Elizabeth Albert

Elizabeth Albert
President, Volusia United Educators