

# New Members Bulletin



*Professional Development: What Teachers Need to Know  
Volume 16 Number 2 2014-2015*

**The Great Neck Teachers Association**  
343 Lakeville Rd. Great Neck, NY 11020

## **Professional Development: Teacher Learning That Supports Student Learning**

Great Neck teachers have many opportunities for professional development both within and beyond the district. Many of these opportunities have been negotiated by GNTA and are therefore guaranteed by your contract.

The Great Neck Teacher Center, the Inservice Institute, and the Technology Academy offer staff experiences to enhance professional knowledge and skills. Staff members are entitled to request approval to attend professional conferences often at district expense.

In addition, Summer Scholarship grants, that sometimes partially or completely fund graduate courses, are also available.

Many of these professional development experiences culminate in the granting of credit toward salary advancement. We hope that the following articles will help you take advantage of these opportunities. As always, if you have any questions about professional development, GNTA is only a phone call away!





## The Great Neck Teacher Center

By Eileen Kurinkas  
Teacher Center Director

The Great Neck Teacher Center offers a wide variety of professional development experiences to the teaching staff of the Great Neck Public Schools and to the teaching staff of the nonpublic schools located within the district. Other staff members of the Great Neck Public Schools are also served by the center: office staff, per diem teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals. The mission of the Center is to meet the professional needs of staff members, and ultimately to enrich education for our students. The Center offers activities, programs, and services that inform, ignite, and inspire our staff and that complement and enhance the goals of our educational community.

The Center's goals for the school year include:

- Being responsive to the professional development needs of staff members in all phases of their teaching career
- Presenting activities with classroom application
- Becoming a facility recognized as an integral part of our school community
- Providing offerings that enhance NY State Professional Teaching Standards for all teachers

· Providing assistance to implement the Common Core Standards in all subject areas

The Policy Board, which consists of

teachers, administrators, parents, business people, representatives of higher education, and the staff of our Center, directs the activities of the Center.

To register visit

[www.MyLearningPlan.com](http://www.MyLearningPlan.com)

Select "District Catalogs" Select "Teacher

## The Inservice Institute

By Norine Nagle Teacher Representative,  
Inservice Institute

The Inservice Institute is a unique district organization provided through the GNTA contract and funded by the Board of Education. Technology Academy merged into the Inservice Institute a year ago when government funding for that vibrant, valuable resource ended. The learning opportunities we provide in person or as a blend of in person and online can be applied to salary advancement, NYS Professional Development Hours requirements, and/or personal growth. The committee includes representatives from the teachers, administrators, substitute teachers, office staff employees, and secretaries, plus the superintendent's designees. The committee, which meets bi-monthly during the school year to discuss issues concerning inservice education, has two main roles.

The first role is to solicit, read, and discuss inservice proposals to determine the service and value they will provide to the GN teachers and students. The Inservice Institute supports and encourages teachers and building experts to share skills and knowledge with peers.

*(Inservice Institute continued)*

Many of our talented employees are pleased and eager to develop a theme, skill, or approach to share with peers and take on this compensated responsibility. The committee looks for rigorous, targeted materials that will enhance teachers' talents and build their repertoires. Intra-building classes address issues and needs unique to a single building; enrollment is limited to members of that specific faculty. All recommended classes are forwarded to the superintendent and the board for fund allocation. Approved courses are listed in MyLearningPlan catalogs; enrollees need only to push a button in order to enroll (or withdraw) from an activity.

The second role for the committee is to review employee applications for inservice credit from out-of-district sources and make recommendations to the Human Resources office about acceptance. The key questions on approvals are: *When were the classes? Who was the provider? How many hours were involved? How does this event help the GN teacher and students?*

Committee recommendation is based on these parameters, but approval is subject to HR examination of both the certificate and the teacher's portfolio to ensure that events from all providers are within contract maximums (per year or career). This committee is also involved in examining and determining the value of travel and publication for inservice credit. The teacher is responsible to supply the necessary documents (journals, logs, passport documents, etc.) and to abide by contract provisions.

A full technical description of the Inservice Institute, along with pertinent information for those seeking credit, can be found in the Agreement, Article 26.

For more information visit the GNPS Webpage. Select Professional Development; click on Inservice Institute or Technology Academy. Courses are listed in the MLP catalogs (requires log on).

Questions may be directed to Joanne Abbriano, the wise and friendly secretary our committee shares with the assistant superintendents.



# Technology Academy

By Marc Epstein  
District Technology Director

Millions of dollars have been invested by the district to upgrade our instructional technology program. These funds have enabled us to expand our hardware, software, network and telecommunications capabilities. In recent years, we have used our technology budget to provide multi-media projectors and SmartBoards in all classrooms and pilot iPads in all schools while replacing all computers on a regular six-year replacement cycle. Clearly, the District supports an ongoing investment in information and communications technology to meet the instructional needs of our teachers and the educational needs of our students.

Technology staff development has been a high priority of the Great Neck Public Schools ever since our first Technology Plan was adopted by the Board of Education in 1994.

Technology Academy courses are offered in the summer, fall and spring semesters. They are taught by technology savvy Great Neck colleagues who are curriculum experts and have demonstrated leadership and expertise with a particular technology, application, Web site, or online resource. Course offerings and descriptions are proposed and then posted on the Internet through our professional development system, MyLearningPlan, where teachers can register online.

I strongly urge you to continue your professional development through participation in the GNPS Technology Academy program. There is no question that our direction and goal is to help teachers seamlessly integrate technology into the teaching and learning process on an every-day basis. I welcome your participation in, and your feedback about, this unique and important program.

# Professional Conferences

The agreement between the Great Neck Board of Education and the GNTA provides substantial money for faculty attendance at professional conferences. This year's allotment is \$103,804.

The rules governing conferences are covered in Article 13D of the GNTA Contract. Briefly, conference attendance is administered by the BCG in each building. It recommends approval based on the perceived benefit to the District of the conference, as well as on the number of people applying for it. All conferences must be approved through MyLearning Plan.

Application should be made in advance, and you pay all costs yourself before the conference. You will be expected to write a summary of the conference, complete the appropriate expense forms, and submit these with your receipts. (See your BCG chair for details.) You will then be reimbursed for all allowable expenses. The amount of money allotted for such conferences, and the fact that the decisions affecting conference attendance are participated in by the faculty through BCG, makes it another outstanding feature of our Contract.



# Conference Reimbursement

After attending a conference the following documentation must be submitted to the Superintendent's Office:

1. A claim form signed by you and approved by your principal or administrator
2. A trip expense form showing the expense breakdown with ORIGINAL ITEMIZED RECEIPTS attached
3. A copy of the written report submitted on MyLearningPlan

All three documents are to be submitted together for reimbursement to be made.

# Summer Scholarship

By Kim Semder

Vice President for Contract Improvement

The Great Neck Teachers Bargaining Agreement provides funds for professional development for its members. This includes full time teachers, part-time teachers, hourly teachers, and nurse teachers.

This sum is available for members to take courses to enhance their professional knowledge. Courses must be taken through an accredited school or professional organization. There must be some professional benefit derived by the teacher to justify funding for the course. Be on the look out for a yellow Summer Scholarship application. The application must be submitted no later than April 25th.

Since the amount of money available to the Summer Scholarship Committee is a set figure, the amount of the scholarship that you would receive may vary from year to year depending upon the number of teachers applying.

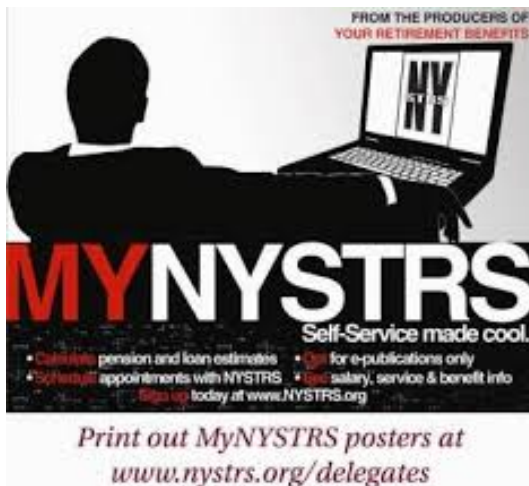
The Summer Scholarship Committee has tried to fund first-time applicants at 100% of the cost of the course in the past.



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**Register Now!**



## Did you know that...

For salary advancement purposes, you are allowed to have a combination of inservice and graduate credits. Salary schedules, which are located on page 58 of the contract, break each level of earned credits into salary classes. For annually salaried teachers, the numbers of inservice credits you are allowed to use for each class are as follows:

### Allowable Class Inservice Credits

1	None
2	8
3	16
4	22
5	26
6	30
7	34
8	34
9	N/A

(Art.26-C GNTA Contract)

**\*\*\*Reminder\*\*\*** A teacher shall submit salary class transfer requests once a year by October 1st for the fall term and by February 1st for the spring term.

(Art.47-J GNTA Contract **Great Neck Teachers Association, Inc.**

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## **GNTA is Online!**

**[www.gnteachers.net](http://www.gnteachers.net)**



(New Members Coordinator and Bulletin  
Editor: Jodi Rauch)

