**“WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”**

FEA has constituted a Task Force to focus on safety and the ability to smartly reopen our neighborhood public schools. The Florida Education Association has publicly requested that the Commissioner of Education bring together a Committee on evaluating the best practices for reopening schools. As of yet, Commissioner Corcoran has not responded to our request to convene this committee. We know, like you, that our state houses the content experts to address the concerns of our students, parents and employees. Our committee will generate recommendations on: Physical Health and Safety, Social and Emotional Wellness and Support, Funding and Policy, Responses, Academics and Working Conditions.

The FEA Task Force is built with education and health care professionals as well as statewide leaders. It will be exclusively virtual. EEA is proud to announce that we will bring our voice of a necessary constituency to the conversation. Congratulations to EEA Teachers: Al Culp, Tate HS; Carol Cleaver, Ferry Pass MS; and Hannah Ard, Ferry Pass MS, for the commitment to serve Your Union and the children we serve. I am so proud you are willing and able to be a part of this endeavor in working to ensure the safety and continued learning of our students and employees.


* Virtual Teaching is not the way any of us thought would be the path our entire district, state, and nation would travel to finish out the school year. But we did it, we survived it, and we will be better for it. Because we are teachers, we are compassionate about our profession, and we teach for the future of our community.

Wednesday is the last day of the 2020 School Year. In honor of Public Education and EEA I am asking you to Wear #Red4Ed on Wednesday.

**Remember:** Be Kind. Social Distancing Matters & Wash Your Hands...
SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

See you on the other side of this very soon. We’ve Got This because “You Are Rock Stars”. Thank you for all your hard work during this unprecedented time. It has not gone unnoticed.

— DONNA HARPER, EEA President

LOCAL RESOURCES

Escambiafea.org
Escambia Education Association
Facebook Escambia Education Association
Facebook Fyre
www.escambia-fl.schoolloop.com
Epic Connections
Feaweb.org
Facebook FEA
Nea.org
Aft.org
https://www.aft.org/benefits/trauma

SUMMER: THE TIME TO RELAX AND REFRESH

Take care of yourself a little more or for some a lot more. We have been through a very stressful 70 days since the first day of spring break this year. And we will continue to go through stressful times. But it will not defeat us. It will not win. Because, We Are Teachers. We can do this. Because, We Are Teachers.

Take time to Cherish the things that are important to you, no one else, but you. This is the time to be a little selfish. As the flight attendant says, “If the turbulence gets rough, secure your oxygen mask first and then you can help others.”

We all know a good night’s rest is the first start. Grab a boring book and lights out. Eating right means healthy snacks. Yes, I said it. So, if you are eating that big bowl of ice cream at least put fruit and dark chocolate on it to be heart healthy. Walk a minimum of 25 minutes a day and walking back and forth to the fridge does not count. Walking and noticing even the beauty in your own neighborhood will exercise your spirit of community. Meditate. Do something you enjoy. Take up a hobby, learn something new, volunteer your time to something important to you. Spend time with family and friends. Go to an outdoor concert. Do not place yourself anywhere that is stressful. Spread a blanket and have a picnic on a rainy day right in the middle of the living room floor, then go outside and play in the rain. Exercise your brain. Stoke your passions. Engage in something that taps your creativity. Sing and Dance like no one is watching. Have things to look forward to, no matter how small. And last but not least, Smile often. Stress is inevitable but not incurable. Cry from your Heart and Smile from your Soul and always remember You Are an Incredible Teacher. You touch lives every day. And know that each of you have touched my life in a meaningful way, you are my legacy, you are what fuels my passion and feels my soul. Remember to do the best you can with what the good Lord gave you and someone else will pick up your slack. That is why we need each other. Thank you for making my EEA, presidency the best it could have been.

Always - Donna Harper