

The SMARTboard

Newsletter of the New Jersey Future Educators Association—
A Publication of the Center for Future Educators at TCNJ



March 2014

FEATURE

A Coach, A Teacher, A Hero...

Chardon, Ohio (CNN) -- Frank Hall insists he's just a football coach and a study hall teacher, not a hero. But what else do you call someone who, as students crouched for cover and ran for their lives after bullets rang out in the Chardon High School cafeteria, ran at the shooter? Who kept on chasing him, out the door of the Ohio school, during which witnesses reported another shot being fired? And who, after all that, headed back into the cafeteria to comfort the victims?

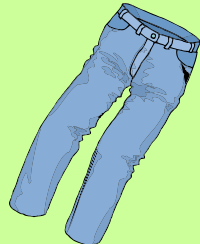
See the video at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdav6sB4PeI>

<<Click on the [links](#) under each header below.>>

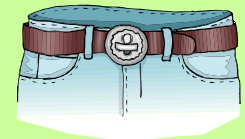
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR NJFEA CHAPTERS?

2013-14 NJFEA Service Project "Teens for Jeans" Makes a Difference!

The 2013-14 NJFEA Teens for Jeans Service Project has been a great success! Our NJFEA/FEA Chapters across the state have collected thousands of pairs of jeans for donations. Here are just some of our chapter highlights:



Verona High School – 121 pairs
Lindenwold High School -152 pairs
Collingswood High School – 137 pairs
Middletown High School South – 113 pairs
West Windsor-Plainsboro HS South – 121 pairs
Hunterdon County Regional HS – 128 pairs
Bloomfield HS – 102 pairs
Manchester Township HS – 138 pairs
Passaic Valley Regional High School - 290 pairs



[Passaic Valley Regional High School](#)

The Passaic Valley Regional High School NJFEA/FEA chapter is passionate about creating a community of future teachers. Our members continuously work on new and exciting ideas that enhance our understanding about teaching. For example, this year we started the "Teacher of the Month." Every month, we vote for an outstanding teacher to receive this recognition. This teacher is asked to come in and speak briefly about his/her professional rewards and challenges. We also participated in Teens for Jeans, the 2013-14 NJFEA service project, collecting nearly 300 pairs of jeans for homeless people in shelters. Another big event for us this year was Homecoming where we joined other PVHS clubs in a parade with creative banners and signature t-shirts. Our next exciting upcoming event is working with the Montclair State University's future educators to develop a program to increase science literacy for middle school students. Our chapter also does applegrams. Applegrams provide students with opportunities to write on a cut-out apple to teachers of their choosing, explaining why they appreciate them. Some members of our chapter also belong to Peer Tutoring and work with high school students struggling in a variety of academic areas. The annual NJFEA conferences are also important to our student members. We attend the fall and spring conference every year where we learn important leadership skills, career opportunities in teaching, and strategies to improve our local chapter.

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GOT NEWS? GOT IDEAS?

Tell us what is important to you. Email your news or ideas to: Mr. Larry Fieber, NJFEA State Director, at feiber@tcnj.edu. We will include them in our newsletter, and/or post them on the Center for Future Educators website or on the CFE-NJFEA Facebook page!

Visit us on the Web at:
<http://futureeducators.pages.tcnj.edu/>
and

'Like' us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/centerforfutureeducators

Happy



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR NJFEA CHAPTERS?



Middletown High School North

The Middletown High School North NJFEA/FEA Chapter has been very active during the 2013-2014 school years. Students have been creating lesson plans and teaching at our local elementary school called Port Monmouth. NJFEA/FEA students plan activities and work with the K-5 grade students while their parents attend Parent Teacher Conferences in another part of the building. The elementary students are engaged in games, educational activities, and physical tasks.



Sussex County Technical School

The Sussex County Technical School recently embarked on offering a NJFEA/FEA chapter through the Tomorrow's Teachers class. The organization currently has 10 member in its inaugural year while half of the students qualify to be a part of the FEA Honors Society! The students jumped on board with the *Teens for Jeans* NJFEA service project as it has been well publicized and very receptive within the school community. The 10 members of the Sussex County Technical School NJFEA/FEA chapter are diligently working on their proposals for the FEA national convention while the chapter advisor, Mr. William Anderson, was invited to be a presenter at the upcoming national conference.

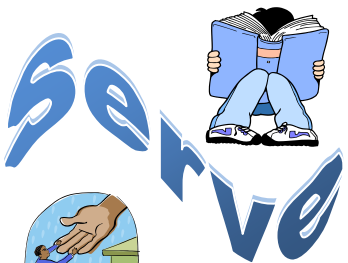


Verona High School

The Verona High School collected 121 pairs of jeans for the Teens for Jeans service project. Members of the Verona High School NJFEA/FEA chapter pose with the many pairs of jeans collected for donations to the homeless.



Learn



Teacher Certification Tests (The Praxis & Beyond)

Passing a standardized test is a basic requirement for teacher certification in almost all states. These tests attempt to measure an aspiring teacher's knowledge and skills, and are used by most public schools in the United States to ensure that educators are qualified to teach. Because each individual state sets its own standards, testing requirements vary on a state-by-state basis. Read more about becoming a teacher tests [here](#).



To learn about teacher certification requirements in New Jersey, visit the Educational Testing Service (ETS) website [here](#).



Thinking Ahead About College:

What are education courses like? What will I study?

Most education programs begin with an introductory class, followed by a class in educational psychology. Then, you study curriculum and methods. You will also take classes in special education and classroom management. In other words, you need to know about the teaching profession, how students think, what to teach, how to teach, and how to reach all children. All of your coursework is tied together with field experiences and student teaching. Your general education courses and courses in your major provide the content you need. After all, you better know algebra if you are going to teach it.



As a freshman, will I take education courses?

This varies widely from college to college. Some first-year students take an introduction to education class and may even go out into schools to observe. Some FEA members have already completed the equivalent of the intro class, and this requirement is waived. Once accepted at a college, attend preregistration and advisement days, and plan your schedule in advance.

Read more [FAQs for future teachers](#).



Articles of Interest to Future Teachers

"Share This With All Schools, Please" - A few weeks ago, I went into Chase's class for tutoring. I'd emailed Chase's teacher one evening and said, "Chase keeps telling me that this stuff you're sending home is math – but I'm not sure I believe him. Help, please." She emailed right back and said, "No problem! I can tutor Chase after school anytime." And I said, "No, not him. Me. He gets it. **Help me.**" And that's how I ended up standing at a chalkboard in an empty fifth grade classroom staring at rows of shapes that Chase's teacher kept referring to as "numbers." Read more [here](#).

"Do Parents Care Enough About School?" - "We cannot improve education without 'more demanding parents,' President Obama said in his State of the Union address. Education Secretary Arne Duncan recently mused that he 'wished our biggest challenge' was 'too many parents demanding excellent schools.' The authors Amy Chua and Jed Rubenfeld say some parents are more focused on building self-esteem than demanding excellence." Read the full article [here](#).



NJ Hall of Fame Essay Contest Announced!

Who belongs in the New Jersey Hall of Fame? The New Jersey Hall of Fame wants your students to participate in the decision making process. New Jersey public school students are invited to participate in the Hall of Fame Essay Contest. Students are asked to nominate potential inductees – living or deceased – to the New Jersey Hall of Fame. Nominations can include famous people as well as ordinary citizens who do extraordinary things. Students should research or interview, if possible, the person they wish to nominate and write an essay no longer than 500 words.

Essays must be typed and double-spaced. The student must include his/her name, age, grade level as of March 21, 2014, address, phone number, parent/guardian's name, school name, and school district. If the essay is a school project, the student should also include the name of the teacher who assigned the activity.

Nominations must be received by March 21, 2014 to be eligible.

Send entries to:

NJ Hall of Fame Contest
NJEA, 180 West State Street
PO Box 1211
Trenton, NJ 08607-1211
Attn: Dawn Hiltner

Or e-mail them to dhiltner@njea.org and put "NJHOF essay contest" in the subject line.

VISIT THE NJEA WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE CONTEST DETAILS.

Don't Miss Out on Summer 2014 Teaching Programs for Future Educators!



Learn about the programs here:

[The College of New Jersey](#)

[Rider University](#)

[Fairleigh Dickinson University](#)



Information coming soon on the summer 2014 programs at: **Kean University and Rowan University.**

Tomorrow's Teachers!

The New Jersey Education Association, the Center for Future Educators at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), and the New Jersey Department of Education are pleased to invite high school teachers to participate in a **Tomorrow's Teachers** instructor training opportunity. Thirty-four states are using this course curriculum to introduce high school students to the teaching profession.

Read the invitation letter [here](#).

Rider University & Fairleigh Dickinson University currently offer college credits to New Jersey high school students who successfully complete the **Tomorrow's Teachers** high school course.

Read about Fairleigh Dickinson University's requirements [here](#).

Read about Rider University's requirements [here](#).

Apply for a Prospective Educator Scholarship!

All FEA seniors who are members in good standing and who intend to major in education are eligible to apply for **Prospective Educator Scholarships** through the **PDK Educational Foundation**.

One of the many ways PDK International supports FEA and the ongoing cultivation of tomorrow's leaders is through the PDK Educational Foundation scholarship program. Each year, the PDK Educational Foundation awards more than 30 scholarships to students who are prospective educators and who have a connection to PDK through their FEA membership. **All applications must be received by April 1, 2014.**

[Apply now!](#)

Questions? Email: scholarships@pdkintl.org.

