



The Advocate

May 2026

A Message from Your President

As another school year comes to a close, we want to give a big congratulations to everyone for making it through another successful year! From early mornings and late nights to lesson plans, grading, meetings, school events, and everything in between –you did it. Thank you for all you do.

Now it's time for the best part: summer! I hope you find time to relax, unplug, sleep in, travel, read for fun, spend time with loved ones, or simply enjoy doing absolutely nothing for a change.

However you spend your summer, make sure to decompress, recharge, and take care of yourself.



While many of us are enjoying some downtime, your bargaining team will be getting to work this summer as negotiations begin for the 2026–27 school year. They'll be hard at work representing members and will send out regular communiqués to keep everyone updated on bargaining progress.

A few summer FAQs and reminders:

Have a contract question?

Be sure to check out our website at **myomta.org** for contract language, resources, and answers to common questions.

Interested in TIF funding?

The Teacher Initiated Fund (TIF) is now accepting applications for the upcoming school year. This is a pre-approval program with a limited budget, so if you're hoping to access funds, be sure to apply early before resources are exhausted.

Reporting an absence next year?

Please note there are changes to the absence reporting process. Be sure to pay close attention to

your absence reason selections and review the rules connected to each type of leave to avoid any issues or a loss in pay. Check your OMTA board to get more information.

Thank you again for another great year. Enjoy your summer break—you've more than earned it! We'll see you in the fall refreshed, recharged, and hopefully a little less caffeinated. ✨

Above & Beyond: Honoring Our Unsung Heroes

Emma Bolivar

Emma has been an incredible source of support and guidance. She consistently checks in to see if others need help and is always willing to share her knowledge, answer questions, and offer assistance. Her dedication is evident in the countless ways she supports her colleagues. Emma regularly goes above and beyond, often staying well past contract hours to ensure things are completed and that others have what they need to be successful. She is proactive, dependable, and always willing to step in before being asked.



Beyond her work ethic, Emma is also someone people naturally turn to for support. Whether a colleague is feeling overwhelmed, needs advice, or simply needs someone to listen, Emma is there with patience and kindness. Her commitment to helping others and her genuine care for those around her make a meaningful impact on both her colleagues and the school community. Thank you for all you do!



Diana Verdugo

Diana is often the first to step up whenever help is needed—whether it's decorating, chaperoning school and community events, or lending a hand wherever she can. Her willingness to give her time and energy so generously makes a meaningful difference across our school community. As an OMTA Rep, Diana is a strong advocate for our members and consistently stands up for the issues that matter most in education. She is a dedicated supporter of her department team and PLC group, always ready to collaborate, problem-solve, and encourage those around her.

Diana's commitment extends beyond her colleagues. She is deeply invested in her students, building positive relationships with families and going above and beyond to support student success. Her kindness, leadership, and dedication make her not only an outstanding educator, but also an amazing coworker, leader, and friend. Thank you, Diana, for all that you do.

Bereavement Leave

Who is Immediate Family?



01 | Your Family

Spouse, domestic partner, parents, step-parents, foster parents, legal guardian, children, grandparents, grandchildren, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces.



02 | Your In-laws

Parents, step-parents, foster parents, legal guardian, children, grandparents, grandchildren, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces of your spouse.



03 | Your Household

Any person permanently residing in your immediate household.

Errors on an absence slip may not be corrected and may result in a loss of pay.

Together We WIN!

Even with all of today's challenges, there is much to celebrate. Over the past four years, OMTA has successfully negotiated:

- Over 17% in on-schedule salary increases over last 4 years!
- Over 10% in off-schedule over last 4 years.
- More than 3% increase in benefits allotment
- Lower Special Education caps than surrounding districts
- Higher hourly rates for timecarded work
- Daily prep for middle school teachers at K-8 sites
- Two new minimum days for report card and conference preparation
- Weekly prep time for elementary teachers (2 hours)
- Release days for Special Education teachers (added one more too!)
- PLCs within the workday and not after school
- SLP compensation for overage finally in the contract
- Release days for Elementary Combination Teachers
- District will move your stuff if you are transferred! (Voluntary transfers too!)
- Release days for Admin or non-voluntary room changes increased to 4! Moving rate isn't sub rate either!

Quick Links

Workplace Violence Form

Ontario-Montclair School District shall log information about workplace violence threats, incidents and post-incident responses that meet the definition of workplace violence types in SB 553.