



TEACHER PRESS

Issue 1

2013-2014 School Year

August 12, 2013

From the Desk of ETA President Mark Lichtenberg...

The beginning of a new school year means excitement and energy. During the past few months, some of our members have attended conferences, received awards, taken classes, and travelled the world. Others have simply taken a well-deserved break, and return to school this week with a refreshed body and renewed spirit. However you spent your summer months, let me be among the first to welcome you back and wish you well this school year.

A new school year means new students, brightly decorated classrooms, a fresh start, and big plans. For some, however, this excitement is tempered with apprehension. Some of our members have moved to a new school or a new classroom. Across Evansville, more than 100 new teachers are entering the EVSC, and everyone has questions about what a new contract, new evaluation system, and new compensation plan will mean for their careers in the coming year.

Some will tell you that there is no longer any value in being a member of our Association. They will say that recent legislation has made us powerless. What they utterly fail to understand is that laws do not give our Union power; our people do. The Evansville Teachers Association is strong because you are strong. We are strong because you work tirelessly to provide the best educational experiences for your students. We are strong because you, and all of our members, are a united group of professionals who advocate for excellent public schools by empowering one another and engaging the community to ensure a quality public education for all children.

For more than 150 years, the National Education Association and the Indiana State Teachers Association have defended teachers' rights, ensured their fair treatment, and worked for the cause of quality public education in America. Since 1912, the Evansville Teachers Association has done the same right here at home. We will continue to do so, because it is the right thing to do. So, when you hear those who do nothing but criticize our Association and our public schools, do not sit by idly. Instead, raise your hand for ETA! Raise your hand and tell them the great things our members do every day. Raise your hand and defend public education and our schools. Most of all, raise your hand for your students, who have no other voice when their school is labeled a failure. We know better, and we will not allow ourselves to be drowned in a sea of negativity.

In closing, as I transition from my instrumental music classroom to this, my new role as President of the Evansville Teachers Association, I look forward to visiting your buildings and meeting many of you. It is an honor and privilege to serve this Association.

In solidarity,

Mark R. Lichtenberg

The Evansville Teachers Association believes in a quality public education for every child.