Welcome Back!!

As summer winds down and we welcome back the students, let me take this opportunity to say thank you for all you do for the public-school children for the Commonwealth.

ESPs are the backbone of public education and a lot of the time go unnoticed. But I for one appreciate your dedication and your service.

In case you haven’t heard there’s an election November 5th and no matter what party you’re affiliated with this Governor has to go!!!

Good luck and have a safe opening to the school year. On behalf of Matt and myself and the Board of Directors we are thankful you have the confidence in us to lead this organization.

Have a great Labor Day. Celebrate the working force’s holiday, enjoy but be safe we need you.

Doug Botkin
Kespa District President

One Association One Voice!
In every school district across the Commonwealth, you will find dedicated employees who lay the foundation for teaching and learning while nurturing a philosophy of kindness. These are the professionals who keep our campuses safe and clean, who maintain our technologies, who answer phone calls and are usually the first to greet students and their parents. I am talking about those who feed our students, drive our school buses, operate school and district offices, and provide critical instructional support. These individuals are our classified school employees or Educational Support Professionals. The work of our Educational Support Professionals continues persistently all year long, repeatedly beginning before sunrise and extending into the evening hours. It is impossible to imagine our schools without the contributions of these professionals, which typically exceed their job descriptions.

Every day, Education Support Professionals make a difference in the lives of students, oftentimes not in the way many would think. Their contributions to public education go much deeper than the services they provide. Education Support Professionals add value to students’ lives and their work is more than completing daily tasks.

Our bus drivers can be the first to greet students each morning, setting a tone for learning by modeling warmth and kindness. The same can be said of school custodians and maintenance professionals, who are responsible for the safety and appearance of our campuses — both of which have a direct impact on learning. Our food service workers serve up care and compassion along with nutritious meals, which research proves to increased brain function and performance. School secretaries and nurses are on the frontlines of behavioral trends and personal health concerns. They are also often the first school employee that students and their parents meet. They influence first impressions and help define each school’s culture. In the classroom, para-educators provide one-on-one support and interventions to ensure each student’s needs are met.

To all the Heroes across the state, always be proud of your work and remember every day is the opportunity to make an impact and take care of a child’s life. Thank you for all you do!

Serving you,
Matthew Powell

A note from the NEA ESP At Large Director

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Serving you,
Matthew Powell

Custodial Supervisor - Graves County Central Elementary
KEA/KESPA Board of Directors    NEA Director ESP at Large
Phone: 270-674-4900 Ext 2736    Cell: 270-804-6488

“Whether we’re teachers, school bus drivers, counselors, faculty members, financial aid administrators, or lunch ladies, we have a gift: the chance to start over every single year, to “do it all again but even better.” - Lily Eskelsen Garcia
Meet Your KESPA Executive Board

President - Doug Botkin – d.botkin@twc.com    Vice President - Matthew Powell- mpowell42066@gmail.com
Secretary- Heather Schultz- rumy6sch@fuse.net  Past President- Nancy Toombs- nancytoombs2014@twc.com

Meet Your KESPA Regional Board Member

• Western Region
  o Vacant – Interim Chiffon Winston- cwinston2508@gmail.com
  o Shaquita Garrett- que3899@yahoo.com

• Eastern Region
  o Phyllis Willis- Phyllis.Willis@greenupkyschools.us;
  o Sarah Johnson - sarah.johnson@floyd.kyschools.us

• Northern Region
  o Debbie Bryan- katiekaboom68@aol.com
  o Helen Cottongim- helen.cottongim@bcea.com

• Central Region
  o Janet Allen- janet.allen@spencer.kyschools.us
  o Vacant-

• Ethnic Minority Director- Vickie Gregory- vtg05@yahoo.com
• Retired- Kathy Hobbs- sixtytwofairlane@aol.com
• NEA Director- Matthew Powell- mpowell42066@gmail.com

• KEA Board of Directors
  o Janet Allen jallenky@gmail.com
  o Marcie Viox mvioxkespa@yahoo.com
  o Chiffon Winston cwinston2508@gmail.com
  o Sarah Johnson sarah.johnson@floyd.kyschools.us

• NEA ESP at Large – Matthew Powell mpowell42066@gmail.com

Search for Kentucky Education Support Professionals Association
NEA's Click & Save is an exclusive online shopping service for KEA/NEA members. It offers savings on brand name merchandise from hundreds of top retailers and local merchants. Save on clothing, electronics, restaurants, jewelry, movie tickets and more!

Receive WOW points to redeem as cash credit toward purchases. New offers are added every day. Set email reminders for favorite merchants, so you'll be notified in advance of upcoming sales and discounts. Visit www.neamb.com to sign up and start saving $$$$!!
**RESPECT Conference**

Tentatively

June 13, 2020

Elizabethtown Kentucky

**KESPA Pre-Delegate Caucus**

March 7, 2020 @ KEA HQ

**KESPA Board of Director Meeting**

KEA HQ - Frankfort

- October 25, 2019
- February 12, 2020
- March 6, 2020
- June 12, 2020
KESPA Members at the 2019 NEA Representative Assembly

“I always aspired to become a teacher. However, after graduating college, I realized that I wanted to contribute to the learning process that goes on beyond the four walls of a typical classroom.”

Matthew Powell
2019 ESP of the Year

What will you do to ensure that all children receive a fully funded, quality public education?

Sarah
Visit the link below to register to vote or see other information relating to the General Election

https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/ovrweb/govoteky

Registration Deadline
October 7, 2019

General Election
November 5, 2019
Mobile Safety Tips

If you’ve ever had a virus infect your computer, you know that the result equals anything from hours of lost productivity to potential identity theft. Now these same threats have spread to mobile phones and tablet computers, along with their own unique twists.

Communicate carefully

When you place or receive a call on a mobile phone, the information is largely secure. However, a record of that call is stored on your provider’s servers, according to Tom Widman, President and CEO of Identity Fraud, Inc. He says this record is stored in case a court orders a subpoena—and the same goes for SMS texts. Even if texting with a friend or significant other, it’s always wise to consider how what you tap into your phone could be misconstrued by a stranger.

Also, never click on a link in a text or e-mail when you aren’t 100% certain about the sender. In fact, Widman suggest not clicking through on links at all, via e-mail (to your phone) or via text. “The text or e-mail may say it’s from a source you trust,” Widman says, “However there is no way to prove that fact and it’s very easy to alter the sender info.”

Be strong with passwords

Simple advice: never store passwords on your mobile device, whether that’s for your Facebook login, your Twitter account or certainly not your bank account (more on mobile banking below). But DO password-protect your phone, and Widman says to make sure it’s a strong password nobody could guess. You need to avoid obvious personal information, such as people’s names, addresses, date of birth, etc.

Widman advises using a phrase that is significant to you and then using the first letter of each word in that phrase. To make that even more unique, use a variation of upper and lower-case letters, as well as at least one number and one symbol. For instance: “I love my two dogs, Rex and Spot”: Ilm2dR+S.

Choose apps from trusted sources

Yes, apps are fun and addictive, but they can be susceptible to viruses that can take over the apps themselves, if not the entire phone. So, vet your apps—download them from a trusted source and read customer ratings and reviews. Apple claims its apps are all vetted internally, and that the application code is secure. Google’s Android app software has fallen prey to so-called “malware” in China, according to security software maker McAfee. While Google makes sure the entire phone is secure (the worst that has happened is the apps themselves have been taken over, not the entire phone), the danger here is that you might store a password within an app and be at risk. Again, the prevention here is to not store passwords within apps that require them. And here’s one more reason to not click email or text links on your phone: Links often bring malware through to the vulnerable apps, opening a sort of “gateway” in the armor of your phone’s security software.
Use only trusted wireless networks

An open wireless network in a public place—the kind that does not require a password—is a very vulnerable place to use the Internet. This the LAST place on earth you want to log on to a social network, tweet from or use ANY personal information or passwords. Widman even advises not logging onto e-mail via a non-vetted WIFI network. And chances are that if your phone gets e-mail anyway, you don’t actually need WIFI to access it. Best practice is to make sure you are accessing a trusted password protected network (and even then, be careful) and to turn off wireless features when you’re not using them.

At home, set up a WPA2, password-protected network. You also want to make sure your IP address isn’t broadcast (translation: nobody without the network name can even “see” that it exists on their computer or mobile device).

Use Bluetooth with care

Bluetooth generally has a very short signal (it literally cannot travel very far between devices), so it’s useful for transmitting music to a car’s audio system or using apps that share contact information between phones, but it, too, makes devices vulnerable. If your phone has Bluetooth and you want to use it to connect to a car or a laptop, be sure both ends of the Bluetooth transmission are password protected. An extra step on some devices, such as Blackberry phones, is to make sure the transmission is encrypted (scrambled). Always take that extra measure when possible. Further, TURN BLUETOOTH OFF when the phone isn’t near the device you want to connect it to, otherwise you are again leaving the phone more open to hacking.

Bank safely

Mobile banking has become extremely popular. We consulted with mobile banking experts from Bank of America and they assure users that their system is secure with a type of no-fault system in place in case a device is hacked. However, you still don’t want to endure that headache. To avoid it, follow all the advice listed above.

Widman lists a few cautions, as well. First, he says, “Your creditors and banks will NEVER ask for account information or passwords by an email or text message. If you are in doubt, call your creditor or bank.” He also says to never store account information on your phone, and that if your phone is lost or stolen to call your bank branch or customer service number immediately to have a “block” put on any activity until you reset the account in person. Bank of America and most other mobile services offer to send alerts to your phone so you can see what’s happening with your account, so if an unauthorized transfer or payment occurs you can notify the bank immediately.

Enable remote wipe

If your phone is lost or stolen, the first call you should make is to your provider. Depending on the phone, the device could potentially be remotely wiped (all the data cleared from it). Most smartphones have this capability and there are apps available as well.

Password-protect your phone for another layer of security, but hackers can crack this code. Once it’s out of your hands it’s always better to call and have the phone wiped or at least have the services disabled. Then make sure to change passwords for your social networks, any e-mail login information and contact your bank if you use mobile banking from that phone.

Lastly, run software updates!

Update your devices and antivirus programs regularly. This will ensure that you have any available security patches.
4 Habits to Make Your Money Work Harder

From discounts on everyday items to savings account perks and special offers, take full advantage of your NEA benefits and give your bank account a boost.

Saving gives you options, less money stress and more financial freedom, says consumer finance expert Kevin Gallegos, vice president of Phoenix operations for Freedom Financial Network. “Money may not buy happiness,” he adds, but it is a vehicle to help us achieve many goals, whether those goals include buying a new piece of furniture, spending time to train for a marathon, providing for a child’s education or saving for retirement. It can be hard to get to any destination without a map, Gallegos notes. He recommends creating a budget that includes your plans for saving. “The key is not to start with dollars and cents, but with your goals,” he says. Make a list of your goals and use it to guide your budget and plan your savings. Once you’ve created your roadmap, take full advantage of the NEA member resources that can help you reach your goals. A few simple changes could lead to more money in your pocket!

1. Shop at NEA Click & Save.
At NEA Click & Save, you can find discounts from well-known retailers such as Kohl’s, Sears, Macys and many more. And when you shop, you earn reward points—called WOWPoints—which you can apply toward future purchases. Collectively, NEA members have saved more than $10 million just by shopping through NEA Click & Save! NEA Click & Save also provides a travel booking engine that offers great deals on plane tickets, hotels, vacation packages, rental cars and cruises. As you start to plan your holiday travel, check out the current travel deals and get the most out of your travel dollar. To find out more about the kinds of everyday items you can buy through NEA Click & Save, read our popular article titled “10 Everyday Discounts You’re Missing Out On.” And shop with our infographic “The Best Times to Buy Just About Anything” to time your purchases to get the best deal.

2. Make your money work harder with an online savings account.
It pays to pay yourself first: Set up or add to your emergency fund, start setting aside money for your next vacation or a start a down payment fund for a car. By saving small amounts consistently each month, you’ll meet your goals before you know it. “Use technology to simplify savings,” suggests Gallegos. Decide how much of each paycheck—or any income source—you want to save. “Establish a monthly savings goal and turn that [goal] into a ‘bill’ to pay,” just as you pay other bills. Learn why it’s so important to pay yourself first in “9 Reasons You Need an Emergency Fund” and learn more about financial planning in “How to Reach Your Financial Goals Faster.”
3. Get the most out of rewards with the NEA Cash Rewards Card.

To maximize your cash back, you’ll want to have the NEA Cash Rewards Card in your wallet. You can earn 3% CASH BACK in the CATEGORY OF YOUR CHOICE: gas, online shopping, dining, travel, drug stores, or home improvement/furnishings. You’ll automatically earn 2% cash back at grocery stores and wholesale clubs, and 1% cash back on all other purchases. Earn 3% and 2% cash back on the first $2,500 in combined choice category/grocery store/wholesale club purchases each quarter, then earn 1%. And there’s a special incentive for new applicants for the card: You can qualify for a special bonus offer by using your new Cash Rewards credit card to make at least $500 in purchases within the first 90 days of your account’s open date. Read about making the most of all sorts of rewards in our article “Get Rewarded for Holiday Shopping,” and maximize this years’ holiday shopping season.

4. Sign up for NEA Member Benefits newsletters.

You’ll get special NEA member travel deals and discounts, along with inspirational destination ideas, when you sign up for NEA Travel. Save on hotel bookings, rental cars and more! And if you're looking for an easy way to save on your everyday shopping, get valuable deals, tips and advice when you sign up for the NEA Member Shopper’s Guide.

NEA ESP Leadership Institute (formerly ESP Leaders for Tomorrow) online application now available! Deadline is midnight, September 13, 2019.

NEA ESP Leadership Institute (ESPLI) is a powerful leadership development program, grounded in diversity, equity and cultural competence that brings together the overarching NEA Leadership Competencies (Advocacy, Communication, Governance and Leadership, Leading Our Professions, and Organizing) to train ESP members to be effective leaders in their associations. ESPLI is designed and collaboratively delivered by ESP members. This eleven-month program requires participants to commit to three in-person trainings, webinars, outside reading and completion of a capstone project designed to elevate the goals of their association and NEA’s core values. Visit www.nea.org/espli for more details.