Dear [member name],

Welcome back to the [insert year] school year! We’re excited to be kicking off a new school year with you in our ranks. We are thankful for your continued commitment to students, schools in this community, and to your local union.

We are living in extraordinary times, and we are just beginning to understand the impact the pandemic has had on our students, our profession, our communities and ourselves.

We have seen and experienced a collective trauma, but we have also seen the power of our unity in keeping ourselves, as well as our students and their families, safe. As we enter another year, I want to encourage you to be intentional about self-care and the mental health of your students. Know your union is here for you. If you need help, an ear, or a shoulder, you can find that support in your union family. Please reach out to your site representative or me (my contact info is below).

And be sure to visit CTA’s [online wellness center](https://www.cta.org/for-educators/wellness-center) for tips and resources on how to take care of your and your students’ mental health.

OPTIONAL LOCAL BARGAINING WINS SECTION SUGGESTIONS

* The inflationary period we are currently experiencing has made salary enhancement a priority. Reference new contract language with salary increase information, enhanced safety measures, sick leave and other wins.

It’s because of educators just like you, who’ve chosen to band together in union, that we are able to effectively advocate for our students and our profession.

We will face further challenges as we continue to differentiate our instructional delivery models in the post-pandemic period. We will continue to meet those challenges because we are union strong.

[Local chapter name] will continue in partnership with [CTA](http://www.cta.org/) and [NEA](http://www.nea.org/) to advocate for a quality public education for every student. Our mission to protect and promote California’s public schools and colleges have never been more important!

As we start this year, your executive board wants to thank you again for your commitment to your union, your profession, and the students we all serve.

Sincerely,

[President name here]

[Preferred contact info]