



Teacher Tip of the Week

Dealing with Tardies



Ideas to Share

As a teacher you are sure to face the issue of the best method for dealing with students who are tardy to class. The most effective way to stop tardies is through the implementation of a schoolwide tardy policy that is strictly enforced.

While many schools do have this, many more do not. If you are lucky enough to teach in a school with a system that is strictly enforced than congratulations - that is awesome. You will simply need to make sure that you follow through as required by the policy. If you are not quite as lucky, you will need to create a system that is easy to enforce yet effective against tardies.

Following are some methods that teachers have used which you might want to consider as you create your own tardy policy. Realize, however, that you must create an effective, enforceable policy or you will eventually be faced with a tardy problem in your classroom.

Tardy Cards

Tardy Cards are basically cards given to each student with a space for a specific number of 'free tardies'. For example, a student might be allowed three per semester. When the student is late, the teacher marks off one of the spots. Once the tardy card is full, then you would follow your own [discipline plan](#) or the school's tardy policy (e.g., write a referral, send to detention, etc.). On the other hand, if the student gets through a semester without any tardies, then you would create a reward. For example, you might give this student a homework pass. While this system is most effective when implemented

schoolwide, it can be effective for the individual teacher if strictly enforced.

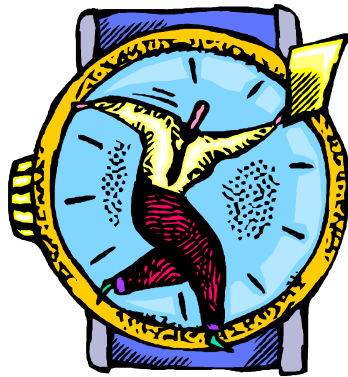
On Time Quizzes

These are unannounced quizzes that take place as soon as the bell rings. Students who are tardy would receive a zero. They should be very short, typically five questions. If you choose to use these, make sure that your administration allows this. You can choose to have the quizzes count as a single grade over the course of the semester

or possibly as extra credit. However, make sure that you announce the system in the very beginning and that you start using them right away. There is a chance that a teacher could start using these to specifically punish one or a few students - not giving them unless those students are tardy. To be fair make sure that you randomly place them on your [lesson plan calendar](#) and give them on those days. You can increase the quantity if you find that tardies are becoming more of a problem over the year.

Detention for Tardy Students

This option makes logical sense - if a student is tardy then they owe you that time. You would want to give your students a certain number of chances (1-3) before instituting this. However, there are some considerations here: Some students might have no transportation other
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COLLECTING SOCKS



Have each student bring in an old sock as their "eraser" for their white board. They store their sock in their math kit. Have them take it home half way through the year to be washed and brought back in for their kit.



Helpful Website for Teachers

<http://www.learnnc.org/>



LEARN NC gives you what you need for K-12 teaching and learning, when and where you need it—from lesson plans and teaching strategies to student research to online courses for teachers and students.

The New Teacher Support Program

Dealing with Tardies

continued....

than the school bus. Further, you do have an additional commitment on your part. Finally, realize that some students who are tardy might be those who are not necessarily the best-behaved. You will be required to spend extra time with them after school.

Locking Students Out

This is not a recommended means for dealing with tardies. You must consider your liability for student safety. If something happens to a student while locked out of your class, it would still be your responsibility. Since in many areas tardies do not excuse students from work, you will have to get them their make-up work which would in the end require more of your time. Tardiness is a problem that needs to be dealt with head on. As a teacher, do not allow students to get by with being tardy early in the year or the problem will escalate. Talk with your fellow teachers and find out what works for them.

Each school has a different atmosphere and what works with one group of students might not be as effective with another. Try one of the listed methods or another method and if it is not working do not be afraid to switch. However, just remember that your tardy policy is only as effective as you are in enforcing it.

Emily Post's Rule On Being Late for Class



If you have to be late for a class, enter as quietly as possible, take a seat near the door and apologize after the class. You may also want to offer a truthful explanation. If you have no good excuse, don't offer one; an apology is a good idea however. This of course, does not mean you can make a habit of lateness.

“PARENTS CAN ONLY GIVE GOOD ADVICE OR PUT



THEM ON THE RIGHT PATHS,

BUT THE FINAL FORMING OF A PERSON'S CHARACTER LIES IN THEIR OWN HANDS.”

—ANNE FRANK

MEET THE PRINCIPALS: Travis Mayfield

School: [Wilson Central High School](#)

How long have you been a principal at this school? **1**

year as Assistant Principal, 2nd year as Principal
Colleges and universities attended: **BS from Pittsburg State University in Kansas; MS from Northwestern State University in Oklahoma**

Special interests and hobbies: **My kids, Braden, Madison, Ava, and Gavin. Other interests are sports, especially football and wrestling, kayaking with my kids, and old Ford 4-wheel drive trucks and Mustangs. Hobbies, I used to build wrought-iron furniture.**

Who or what inspires you each day as you do your job and why?

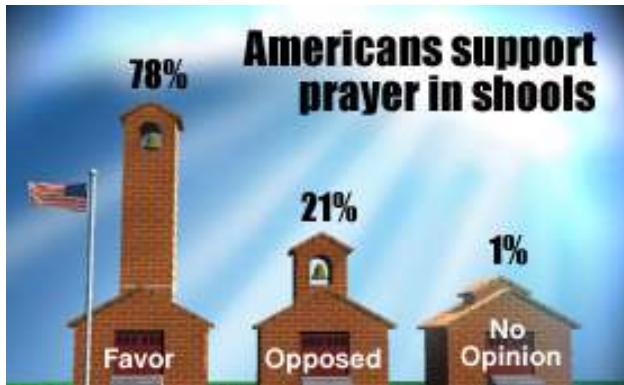
The students motivate me to do this job. If I can help one kid than I have made a difference in that kid's life, and had a positive impact on them and the school. I try and help them all because that is what they need to be successful in high school and life beyond.

If you had not gone into education, what type of job would you have chosen: **I don't know, I wanted to be a teacher since I was a freshman in high school. The only other thing I have ever done was structural welding; I learned that from my father.**

What is the favorite part of your job: **being around the students, helping them, watching them mature, and being a positive part of their life.**



Americans Support Prayer in Schools



78 % of Americans recently polled support prayer in schools. 71% believe the Bible should be used in the classroom.

Source: USA Today



TIME MAGAZINE COVER STORY THIS WEEK: *How to Make Better Teachers*

We never forget our best teachers—those who imbued us with a deeper understanding or an enduring passion, the ones we come back to visit years after graduating, the educators who opened doors and altered the course of our lives. I was lucky enough to encounter two such teachers my senior year in a public high school in Connecticut. Dr. Cappel told us from the outset that his goal was not to prepare us for the AP biology exam; it was to teach us how to think like scientists, which he proceeded to do with a quiet passion, mainly in the laboratory. Mrs. Hastings, my stern, Radcliffe-trained English teacher, was as devoted to her subject as the gentle Doc Cappel was to his: a tough taskmaster on the art of writing essays and an avid guide to the pleasures of James Joyce. Looking back, I'd have to credit this inspirational pair for carving the path that led me to a career writing about science.

It would be wonderful if we knew more about teachers such as these and how to multiply their number. How do they come by their craft? What qualities and capacities do they possess? Can these abilities be measured? Can they be taught? Perhaps above all: How should excellent teaching be rewarded so that the best teachers—the most competent, caring and compelling—remain in a profession known for low pay, low status and soul-crushing bureaucracy?

Check out the entire story in TIME...

New Teacher Support Group Participants



ELLIOT WOOD
WATERTOWN
ELEMENTARY
4th-8th PHYSICAL
EDUCATION

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"Seeing a need for positive male role models in young people's lives, I felt called into teaching for the opportunity to directly impact students' lives."—Elliot Wood



WILL KRIESKY
MT. JULIET HIGH
SCHOOL
DOCUMENT DE
SIGN/CO-OP

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"I became a teacher because I want to make a difference in students' lives. Many students are not as fortunate to grow up in a positive home environment. I want to be there for them and help guide them in the right direction to become successful citizens."—Will Kriesky





WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS



THE TOP TEN THINGS NEW TEACHERS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM THEIR FELLOW TEACHERS:

2) You don't have to be superman or woman tomorrow.

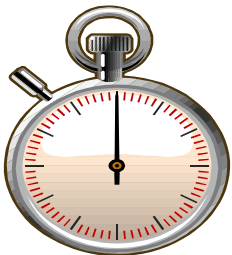
Or even next month. That superstar older professor who is an outstanding teacher, has built a daunting research program, and is president of his professional society did not get there in a year. I'm sure there are one or two new faculty members who may appear to manage it all in their first year, but in my experience, such an expectation is unrealistic. It takes new faculty two or three years to get established; so, pace yourself for the long run. Things will take off more quickly than you think.

You might start by setting goals for your first two or three years and reviewing them with your mentors. You are entitled to your big dreams, but try to sort them into manageable goals -that you can actually accomplish-for yourself. Small successes are likely to motivate you more than struggling to meet an unattainable plan.

Time Management Tips for Teachers

MANAGING STUDENTS

9. Avoid time-wasting trips to the school nurse for those students needing minor attention. Stock your classroom with the following supplies: band-aids, soap, a towel, Vaseline and a swab for chapped lips, hand cream, baby wipes, and anti-itch ointment. Don't forget envelopes for the Tooth Fairy!



10. To cut down on the time spent writing hall passes, type out the most common reasons and individually laminate each. Have them easily

accessible to students, with an erasable marker nearby. Students can fill in their names and then use a baby wipe to clean it off when they return.

SHARING THE LOAD

1. Here's a quick and unbiased way to choose students for special jobs. Assign a number for each student and write these on plastic milk bottle tops. When you have a special task to be done, simply pull a bottle cap from a box.

Continued next week...

Need a Laugh?



It is the policy of the Wilson County School System not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs or employment policies as required by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.