



Teacher Tip of the Week

Your Favorite Student and the Kid that Drives You Crazy!

There's one in every class, the kid that drives you crazy. You try to keep positive, you try to love them, you try everything, but they still drive you crazy.

This is a part of teaching that most new teachers struggle with because they think that every kid will love them and listen to them. It is hard when you realize that every kid won't love you and every kid won't listen. Once you get to this point, you need a plan.

First, decide if the child drives you crazy because of something that you can help modify or if it is a personality conflict that you can't help.

Some children drive you crazy because they are loud, or messy, or slow. Some children drive you crazy because they are throwing chairs. These are two totally different problems that need to be dealt with in different ways.

Second, find out whom at school you can talk to for help. Most schools have a guidance counselor that might have ideas. Some schools have an Assistant Principal or a Behavioral Specialist. Find out whom you can talk to for ideas.

Third, come up with a plan in class. It can be a desk chart, a reward system, whatever. If you have a plan, you can document progress or the lack of. This information is good to have.

Fourth, and this is the hardest, remember that the kid is a kid and many times whatever it is that is driving you nutty might spawn from something that is totally unrelated to school. Work with the children in your class and remember that they are people too, no matter how crazy they drive you.

On the flip side of the kid that drives

you nutty is your favorite student - the kid you love so much and you wish you could take home. This is just as bad of a situation.

You cannot play favorites in a classroom. Don't let yourself get into a situation where it happens.



The kids will see it, they are smart cookies! They will hate you for it because they are not the favorite. The worst part of all, they will lose respect for you.

You have to be fair and consistent with each and every child in your room. You may have a Golden Child in your room, but you cannot let that child know you like them more. Ever.

Some ways to do this is to maintain a job board so everyone gets a turn, use "sticks" to draw names for games, and have an alphabetical assigned line order. These little procedures will protect you from calling on your dream kid more often than others.

We all would like to think that teachers can treat every student fairly no matter the situation but it's a hidden truth that teachers are humans. Humans are known to favor certain things over others and even treat things differently. Teachers are just like everyone else so it's understandable but when it comes to students and their grades and educations, these things shouldn't even be in the same sentence.

The Teacher's Pet:
"In elementary school, girls want to be, but boys do not. In middle school, no one wants to be!"



Ideas to Share

CLASS DISCUSSION



When having debates in class use a Nerf ball. Who ever has the ball gets to talk, then they can throw it at someone else to give them the floor. It is a lot of fun and the kids get a great kick out of it and seem to get more involved.

Helpful Website for Teachers

<http://www.eduref.org/Virtual/Lessons/index.shtml>

This collection contains more than 2000 unique lesson plans which were written and submitted by teachers from all over the United States and the world. These lesson plans are also included in **GEM**, which links to over 40,000 online education resources.

The New Teacher Support Program

Digital Cameras in the Primary Classroom

Who was it that said a picture is worth a thousand words? If that person were around today, chances are he or she would have a digital camera in hand!

Children are naturally drawn to photography. For younger students, in particular, who may not have the vocabulary to express everything they see and feel in words, photographs are a great way to share their unique view of the world. By using digital cameras within the curriculum, teachers can not only provide students with a visual medium for self-expression, but also help them to hone their observation skills, develop an understanding of perspective, and practice their computer skills.

From the first day of school to the last, you'll find lots of ways to put a digital camera to work. Here are some ideas:

Alphabet Photo Album (Grades K-1)

Assign each student a letter of the alphabet and send them on a scavenger hunt to search for an item that begins with that letter. Have students add a sentence to their photo (A is for Apple) and print their picture. Once



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LOCKED INSIDE
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—MARVA COLLINS**



Photograph the Seasons (Grades K-2)

Use a digital camera to record the changes in nature through the seasons. Pick a tree or other plant on campus that students can photograph each week throughout the school year.

Student Portraits for Open House (Grades 2-3)

During the first days of school, have students work in pairs to take pictures of themselves. Open the pictures in *Kid Pix* and add drawings or stamps to illustrate their favorite things (favorite food, color, etc.). Save their illustrations and create a slide show to share with parents during Open House.

Classroom Dos and Don'ts (Grades 3-5)

Make a list of classroom dos and don'ts to supplement your set of class rules. Have students use a digital camera to take pictures of the do's and don'ts to post alongside each rule.

The Newsweek Education Program (NEP) engages students and develops essential skills.

Newsweek magazine, a versatile, lively nonfiction resource, is the key component of our program. The NEP provides online and print resources that make it simple to use Newsweek in the classroom.



The NEP is uniquely poised to correspond to the changing needs of today's classrooms. Our materials are developed by seasoned educators to provide an effective combination of rigor and practicality. And, students enjoy Newsweek magazine. Our program is affordable and reliable. All NEP teaching resources are free and available only to educators who subscribe to our program.

<http://www.newsweekeducation.com/index.php>

New Teacher Support Group Participants



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WILSON
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WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"I have always wanted to teach agriculture, it just took me a while to get here. I wanted to teach because I love agriculture and the FFA and I knew I could be great at teaching about what I love. I also enjoy young people. I have worked with teens in several previous employments and I really like having some influence on teens."—Pam Walker

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"I wanted to help students learn to succeed, be confident, and find shining moments that they can carry with them through life."—Joanna Hook



TEACHER FACTS

Gender diversity in teaching

Males comprised 24.4 percent of public school-teachers in 2006.

Many of them taught in Kansas (33.3%), Oregon (31.4%), Alaska (30.9%) or Indiana (30.5%). States with the lowest percentage of male faculty were Arkansas (17.5%), Mississippi (17.7%), Louisiana (17.8%), South Carolina (17.9%), Virginia (18.8%) and Georgia (19.3%).

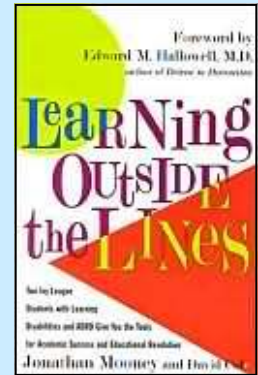
Outstanding teachers...

....employ direct, warm and compelling eye contact with students. They also position themselves in the room so that they are facing all students almost all of the time.

All of us know that one of the tricks in helping students control their conduct is to be aware of what they are doing.

In the classroom, however, simple awareness is inadequate. A teacher must know what is going on and the teacher's behavior must signal that fact to the students.

In other words, students must know that the teacher knows what they are doing.



Learning Outside the Lines

by Mooney & Cole

Every day, your school, your teachers, and even your peers draw lines to measure and standardize intelligence. They decide what criteria make one person smart and another person stupid. They decide who will succeed and who will just get by. Perhaps you find yourself outside the norm, because you learn differently -- but, unlike your classmates, you have no system in place that consistently supports your ability and desire to learn. Simply put, you are considered lazy and stupid. You are expected to fail.

Learning Outside the Lines is written by two such "academic failures" -- that is, two academic failures who graduated from Brown University at the top of their class. Jonathan Mooney and David Cole teach you how to take control of your education and find true success -- and they offer all the reasons why you should persevere. Witty, bold, and disarmingly honest, *Learning Outside the Lines* takes you on a journey toward personal empowerment and profound educational change, proving once again that rules sometimes need to be broken.



WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS



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

The Balancing Act

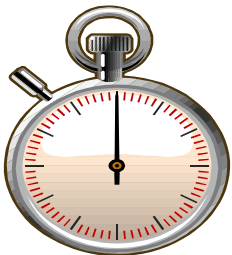
9) Don't work on 15 things equally all at once.

Nothing will ever get done. The good news is that as a new faculty member, you'll probably get better at juggling multiple roles and tasks. The bad news is it remains a challenge throughout an academic career. Over the years, I've picked up a book or two on time management and thumb back through them at the start of every semester. Something I did in my early career was to pick one thing that mattered out of all the responsibilities and tasks I'd outlined. I tried to make sure I was devoting at least a quarter of my time to that one thing and splitting the other three-fourths of my time among the 14 other things I had to do. Once that one thing went "out the door," be it developing a new course or writing a book chapter, I turned to the next thing that mattered, so there was always one project getting a good chunk of my time. It didn't always work, but it was helpful to hold as an ideal plan.

Time Management Tips for Teachers

COMMUNICATING EFFICIENTLY

4. Cut down on classroom interruptions and missed communication by posting a small erasable board near your classroom door. Anyone who comes by can jot down a quick message for you to deal with later. They can also do this when you are out of the room.
5. Speed up the writing of than-you notes for students' holiday gifts by making a generic New Year's Greeting card to give to all students. Include a short handwritten note in those for students

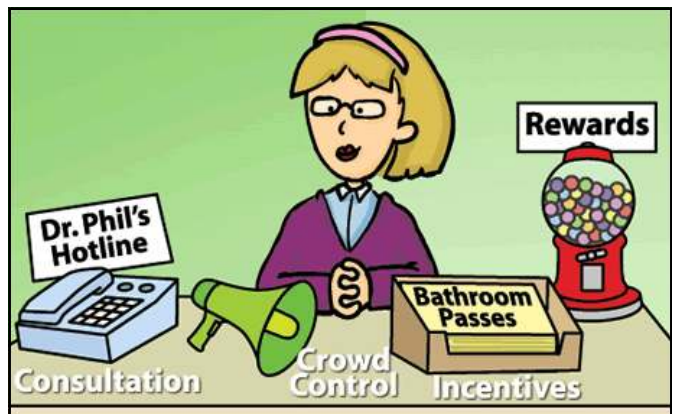


who have given you a gift. This way, no one feels left out.

6. Have professional looking business cards made with the school address and phone number and your e-mail address. Hand these out instead of having to write your contact information down for everyone.
7. Always write the homework assignments in the same place on the chalkboard and keep them posted all day. You won't have to repeat your assignments verbally or write them again.

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.