



Teacher Tip of the Week

New Teacher Support Program 2009-2010

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Teacher Tip of the Week
New Teacher Support
Program
Wilson County Schools
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Top 10 Reasons to Become a Teacher

HOW TO DO IT— CHECKLIST



ENTERING THE CLASSROOM

Begin the class period with a brief warm-up activity or bell-ringer, such as journal writing or solving a problem of the day. Before students arrive, post the bell-ringer on the board and make a list of materials needed for the main lesson. If there is a new homework assignment, post it on the board, too. If necessary, remind students to sit in their assigned seats. When the bell rings, check to see who is on-task. Give a signal to those who are off-task.

It may be helpful (and even necessary) to attribute a small portion of a daily grade to these bell-ringer exercises so that students treat them seriously. Consider asking students to turn them in weekly. You can then include it as a participation grade.—
New Teacher Survival Guide

Teaching is a special calling. It is not a job well-suited to everyone. In fact, many new teachers leave within the first 3-5 years of teaching. However, there are many rewards that come with this oft maligned career. Here are my top ten reasons why teaching can be a great profession.

1. Student Potential

Unfortunately, not every student will succeed in your class. However, this fact should not keep you from believing that every student has the potential for success. This potential is so exciting - each new year presents new challenges and new potential successes.

2. Student Successes

Closely related to the previous pick, student success is what drives teachers to continue. Each student who didn't understand a concept and then learned it through your help can be exhilarating. And when you actually reach that student that others have written off as being unteachable, this can truly be worth all the headaches that do come with the job.



3. Teaching a Subject Helps You Learn a Subject

You will never learn a topic better than when you start teaching it. I remember my first year teaching AP Government. I had taken Political Science courses in college and thought I knew what I was doing. However, the student questions just made me dig deeper and learn more. There is an old adage that it takes three years of teaching to truly master a subject and in my experience this is the truth.

4. Daily Humor

If you have a positive attitude and a sense of humor, you will find things to laugh about each day. Sometimes it will be silly jokes you will make up as you teach that might get a laugh from your students. Sometimes it will be jokes that kids share with you. And sometimes students will come out with the funniest statements without realizing what they've said. Find the fun and enjoy it!

5. Affecting the Future

Yes it might be trite, but it is true. Teachers mold the future each day in class. In fact, it is a sad fact that you will see some of these students more consistently day-to-day than their parents will.

6. Staying Younger

Being around young people everyday will help you remain knowledgeable about current trends and ideas. It also helps break down barriers.

7. Autonomy in the Classroom

Once a teacher closes that door each day and begins teaching, they really are the ones who decide what's going to happen. Not many jobs provide an individual with so much room to be creative and autonomous each day.

8. Conducive to Family Life

If you have children, the school calendar will typically allow you to have the same days off as your kids. Further, while you might bring work home with you to grade, you will probably be getting home close to the same time as your children.

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Top 10 Reasons to Become a Teacher (cont.)

9. Job Security

In many communities, teachers are a scarce commodity. It is fairly certain that you will be able to find a job as a teacher, though you might have to wait until the start of a new school year and be willing to travel within your county/school district. While requirements might be different from state to state, once you have proven yourself a successful teacher, it is relatively easy to

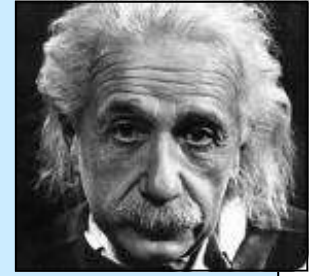
move around and find a new job.



10. Summers Off

Unless you work in a district that has a year-round-education system,

you will have a couple of months off in the summer where you can choose to get another job, teach summer school, or just relax and vacation. Further, you typically get two weeks off during Christmas/Winter Holidays and one week for Spring Break which can really be a huge benefit and provide much needed rest time.—*Melissa Kelly*



“Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.”

—Albert Einstein

What makes a great educator?

Great educator's are those people who against all odds teach their children how to love learning. All educators meet those children who simply hate school. These children have absolutely no desire whatsoever to sit in a classroom and be lectured. They would much rather be anywhere else except in that school room sitting at their desk reading a book.



tor's have a desire to see all students learn. They love their chosen profession and students so much they will go the extra mile to teach the students in their charge. They make their lessons come alive and make sure that all the students are involved in the unlocking of the secrets of the vast universe of knowledge.

Great educator's are those people who recognize those students who with a little help will become the great men and women of our society so they tend to provide inspiring snippets of information that transform that students desire to reach for more knowledge.

So what makes a great educator?

In my opinion there are three things that makes a great educator. Great educa-

Great educator's secondly have a passion for what they do. It has been my experience that when you come across a teacher that is in education because they love helping others learn and grow you have the beginning of a great success story. Usually those teachers don't wait for the parent to initiate a parent teacher conference they do it themselves. And even if the parent does not see the need to help a child develop the great educator finds a way to meet the child's needs.

The third thing I see that great educator's have in common is commitment and dedication. It is not about the money it is all about the child. Great educator's get their joy out of hearing how the children they taught have succeeded in life. When a student comes up to me and tell me that I made a difference in their life because I cared it makes me feel that all the struggle and sacrifice was worthwhile. The teacher who wants to scale the mountain of greatness need to develop a desire for teaching excellence, they must be passionate about helping others learn, and they must be committed and dedicated to their chosen field.

To put this in perspective I would like to share one of the reasons I am writing in this forum. One great educator in my life challenged me indirectly to write about my childhood adventures. She said, "one day some of you will tell your children about this three room school". Ever since that day every chance I get I remind my children and stu-

dents that I grew up from a child attending a three room school that was filled with disadvantaged students who had hand me down books, used furniture, and little hope of going far in life but here I stand today graduating number ten (10) from my college class. I tell them that what made that teacher so special to me is that she seemed to care about me the student who sat in her class who looked out of the window and day dreamed about the future life that lay ahead. That teacher is the greatest teacher in my life because it was she who inspired me and stimulated this gift of writing in me when I was no more than seven (7) years old.—*Ronald Claiborne*

'09-'10

NEW TEACHER SUPPORT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



Gayle Hayes

Wilson Central High School

AP Chemistry, Nutrition Science
and Geology

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"A few years ago my corporate job ended when the company where I worked closed its doors. I decided to research some new opportunities and became a substitute teacher as a part of that research. I discovered that teenagers were a lot more interesting and fun to work with than their parents, and that the classroom was a place where I could make a difference in another person's life. I went back to school, earned my degree and certification, and feel so fortunate to have found something that I truly love to do!"—Gayle Hayes



TEACHER WEBSITE OF THE WEEK:

<http://rs6.loc.gov/amhome.html>

American Memory

The Library of Congress has collected a huge amount of material over the years and they are now making a large chunk of it digital. Check out this site for a growing collection, currently numbering more than seven million items, of pictures, documents from American History, movies and recordings. A good daily stop is the Today in History section. The whole site is an excellent resource for student presentations and for working with original source material.



OFF THE BOOKSHELF



The First Days of School: How to Be an Effective Teacher
by
Harry K. Wong, Rosemary T. Wong

The best-selling book ever on classroom management and teaching for student achievement with over 3.3 million copies sold. The book walks a teacher, either novice or veteran, through structuring and organizing a classroom for success that can be applied at any time of the year at any grade level, pre-K through college.

The book is used in thousands of school districts, in over 100 countries, and in over 2,000 college classrooms. It's practical, yet inspiring. But most important, it works!

The new 4th edition includes updated research, photos, and more examples of "how-to" along with an implementation DVD, "Using THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL" featuring Chelonnda Seroyer.

This is the most requested book for what works in the classroom for teacher and student success.—*Barnes and Noble*



Strategies for New Teachers . . .

Teaching is one of the few professions that demands the same level of expertise, responsibility, and accountability from the new teacher as the 30-year veteran. Working to meet these expectations can be both stressful and challenging, especially for the beginning teacher.

PREPARING YOUR CLASSROOM

- ◆ Work with the materials, resources and budget you are given. Take stock of what your school system has provided and what you can request. Rely on veteran staff and your department chairman or team leader for information. Use available materials creatively before you spend your own money on supplies.
- ◆ Budget your time. Preparing your classroom is time consuming—don't get carried away with it. You have much to do to get ready for the students' arrival. Focus on completing a few projects before students arrive. Extra bulleting boards can be covered with paper and a border and left as "Student Showcases"—places to post exemplary student work.

—Margaret Donahue/Best Practices in Education



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

GET READY FOR
KINDERGARTEN MONTH

CHILDREN'S VISION &
LEARNING MONTH

SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE WEEK
August 1-7

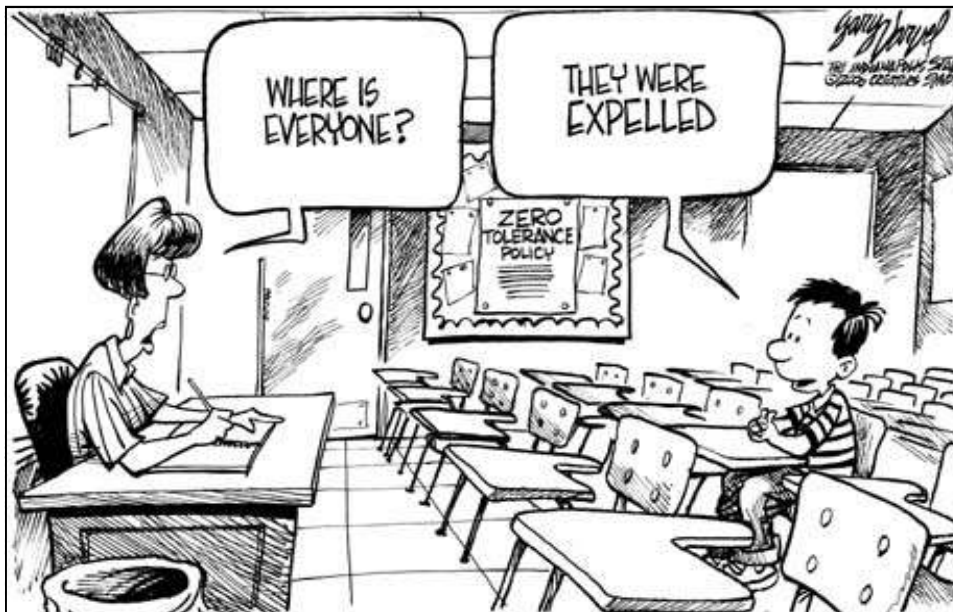
SINGLE WORKING
WOMEN'S WEEK
August 2-8

HIROSHIMA DAY August 6

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
DAYS August 8-10

SMITHSONIAN DAY
August 10

S'MORES DAY August 10



Back to school

Little Johnny had finished his summer vacation and gone back to school. Two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that he was misbehaving.

"Wait a minute," she said. "I had Johnny with me for three months and I never called you once when he misbehaved."