



A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC



Regional Education Facilitators-NC Department of Public Instruction
www.regedfac.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/home

A Message from : 2016-2017 Piedmont/Triad Region Teacher of the Year– Kevin Scharen

As a student, I heard often that teachers were not supposed to smile before Christmas. I remember in college being told that inexperienced, and especially young, high school teachers need to be strict. My first few years teaching, I taught math, coached, and then went home each day. As much as I loved my job, I was not doing what I now feel teaching has become for me. My favorite times of the year as a student were always Christmas and summer vacation. As much as I enjoyed learning and being with friends, it symbolized the end of a semester. I was able to relax after putting in a ton of hard work. As I got older, I needed a mental break from school or certain teachers. Now that I am a teacher, my perspective has changed. From the first day of school until the last exam in June, I smile [or laugh] every day. Why is that? You never know when the time will come where we may be the smile that our learners need that day. I may not smile as often during a

mandatory staff meeting or for a professional development session. That is because I have smiled myself to exhaustion that day. I hear the words "rigor" and "relevance," but we all know the best teachers value their student RELATIONSHIPS. "The 21st century teacher" tries to get a sense of what kind of lives our students lead outside of our walls. We build relationships to relate to all of our kids and it starts with a smile. Many of us wear various masks/hats for our students, having to be whatever they need us to be on any given day. This is also the time of year where we will not see the students that we've grown to love since August, or we may be getting new students. I often send words of encouragement in emails to my students, birthday reminders to whole classes, and other ways to show my students that I am thinking of them. I know which ones need those words most, but they all receive them. I use this time of year as a way to start new

methods of reaching them. I reflect about, "Could I have said or done something differently this semester to more positively impact certain students to brighten their day?" I also worry about the six weeks before I get my next paycheck, yet how thankful I am that I have a second job that will help my two teachers' salary household stay afloat until January 31st. I think about the changes in national, state, and local politics from the last election, and the impact it will have on my classroom. But, whenever I see former students, I instantly smile and laugh about what they remember/share from our class. They never discuss the lesson plans I worked on, the word walls I created for them, my learning targets, nor the grades they received. In fact, often they bring up moments that I never recall. We laugh, we catch up on life, and it usually ends with a hug. Regardless of the day I am having, I smile for my students. I love my profession and so, I smile because of my students. I hope we all remember to smile.

Kevin Scharen– Alamance/Burlington Schools– Alamance/Burlington Early College

Teacher Retention: What Can Your School or District Do to Retain You?

The state of the teaching profession in NC is of critical importance to school systems and charter schools. In NC, the average teacher turnover rate is currently around 15%. With approximately 100,000 teachers in NC, this is a significant number of people who leave their school, district, or teaching altogether.

Please take a few minutes and complete the following short survey to help improve teacher retention in NC. Your comments will be anonymous and used to inform schools and systems across

the state; providing them with ideas to improve their support of teachers. Your responses are important to us.

<https://goo.gl/forms/C6bIBM9l7rrlvys23>

TEACHER'S SURVEY

Think about the following factors and, if applicable, include them in your responses to the survey questions. Thank you!

Do these factors impact teacher retention?

- Feedback on observations
- Student discipline
- Class size / Supplies
- Salary (supplement)
- Time (planning and/or PD)
- School social events
- Administrative support
- Preparation for the job



December's NCBT Twitter Chat was a success! The next one is February 7th from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Join us at #NCBTCHAT.



The NCCAT link below has videos for beginning teachers on the following topics:

- [Behavior Management](#)
- [Brain Compatible Teaching](#)
- [Differentiated Instruction](#)
- [Assessment](#)
- [Taking Care of Yourself](#)

www.nccat.org/beginning-teacher-support-program



Great Resource for BTs
Learn NC– New Teacher Support– Check it out!

www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/4064



Ben Johnson is a writer and blogger for *Edutopia*. He's written an article on how to make IEP meetings more effective, as well as other posts and blogs that might be helpful to new teachers.

<https://www.edutopia.org/users/ben-johnson-0>

