



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 Western Region Teacher of the Year – Angel Ledbetter



Can you feel it, beginning teachers? The days are a little longer, the sun is a little brighter, the kids are a little more rowdy- and those glorious days of summer are a little closer. After the ups and downs of a year in the classroom, it can be easy to get lost in dreams of the beach and sun-soaked days with no lesson plans in sight, but these next few weeks are just as pivotal for you (and your students) as those first few were.

With testing looming large on the horizon, feeling the need to push through all of that material is natural, making it more essential than ever to prioritize. Do not cave to the pressure of the curriculum. Make the most of the time you have left by putting first things first. Decide what is essential for you to cover and put your students first. Sacrificing true engagement for the sake of sneaking in an extra lesson may seem like a good idea but our students

must continue to read, write, think, and talk in every class, every day as our time with them winds down. Show them that you care about their growth as individuals, that your expectations for them have never wavered, and they will rise to the occasion!

Just as important is that you keep challenging yourself! Maybe you want to get your supplies organized, make a quick list of improvements to that unit you know needs a little more work, or take the time to contact each student's parents one more time to keep that support structure strong as we reach the finish line. Whatever it is that you want to accomplish, now is the time! Setting, and reaching, those goals in the last few weeks will leave you feeling empowered and help you put your best foot forward months before the fall gets here. Your time may be limited but how you use that time is completely up to you!

Decide how you want to remember this year and set one or two small goals to wrap up your year with the same sense of purpose you brought with you in August.

I hope, above all else, that you will resolve to do one thing in these last few weeks: enjoy it! You will never have this time, with these kids, again. You have invested a lot of yourself in these students, in cultivating relationships with them and their families. A year's worth of laughs, tears, jokes, smiles, and struggles will walk out of your door on that last day but you have the ability to cement your impact on your students right now. Use these last days to inspire, to support, and to provide your students with a strong foundation for years to come. And do it all knowing that teaching is not just something you do- it is part of who you are!

-Angel Ledbetter

DIFFERENTIATION IS

- AN IDEA AS OLD AS EFFECTIVE TEACHING
- Lessons designed around PATTERNS OF STUDENT NEED
- USE OF WHOLE-GROUP, SMALL-GROUP & INDIVIDUAL TASKS BASED ON CONTENT AND STUDENT NEEDS
- VALUING and PLANNING for DIVERSITY in HETEROGENEOUS SETTINGS
- Necessary for success with standards for a broad range of learners
- PURPOSEFUL USE OF FLEXIBLE GROUPING
- STUDENT-FOCUSED WAY OF THINKING ABOUT TEACHING AND LEARNING
- TEACHING UP AT THE CORE OF QUALITY TEACHING
- ASCD
- Designed to ADDRESS LEARNING & AFFECTIVE NEEDS that all students have

Learn more about the book at www.ascd.org/differentiatedclassroom.

DIFFERENTIATION IS NOT

- TRACKING OR GROUPING STUDENTS INTO CLASSES BY "ABILITY"
- INCOMPATIBLE with STANDARDS
- BLUEBIRDS, BUZZARDS & WOMBATS (ability grouping within a classroom)
- DUMBBING DOWN teaching for some students
- Something extra on top of good teaching
- A SET OF INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES
- Mostly for students identified as GIFTED
- MOSTLY FOR STUDENTS WITH IDENTIFIED LEARNING CHALLENGES
- INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
- IEPs for ALL
- ASCD
- A SYNONYM FOR GROUP WORK

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Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!!!

Teacher Appreciation Week is being celebrated by businesses for the next 2 weeks and teachers and administrators can score some super freebies and discounts!

The official Teacher Appreciation Week, according to the national PTA organization, is next week May 8th-12th, so I'm sure there will be more offers to come.

As always, these offers are valid at participating locations and you may want to call ahead to your specific locations to see if they are honoring the promotions.

This information was provided by WRAL.com, check out the link for specific locations where you can be celebrated as a teacher!

<http://www.wral.com/teacher-appreciation-week-freebies-2017/16675164/>

