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A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC



Regional Education Facilitators-NC Department of Public Instruction
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“Tis’ the Season to be an Educator”

7 teacher tips for surviving the weeks before holiday break

We’re heading into the home stretch and it can be one of the hardest times in which to maintain order in the classroom. Fortunately, there are ways to make the last few days count and maintain your sanity:

1. Don’t build anticipation. Tell your students about school-wide performances/activities and explain how they fit within your class agenda.
2. Resist the urge to ease up on your behavioral expectations.
3. Review your procedures and expectations.
4. Integrate high-interest projects and group work into your regular routines.
5. Don’t feel pressure to do all of the elaborate holiday stuff that other teachers do.
6. Keep the last day before break low-key.
7. Get prepared for January before you leave.

~Read the full blog by National Board Certified Educator Angela Watson here: <http://bit.ly/2Aiw21h>



As we approach the month of December, oftentimes beginning teachers lose morale, are blanketed in self-doubt, and are frozen in disillusionment. With the realization that things are not going as smoothly as hoped, you begin to question both your commitment and competence. This stage is a part of the process and rest assured that just like the weather, seasons bring forth changes.

Winter is a time when nature becomes dormant and gives way to restful reflection. Life has not ceased to exist; it is merely veiled underneath a thin layer of snow and ice quietly waiting. As we know in North Carolina, that layer quickly melts away and with it comes renewal. However they may be camouflaged, your eagerness, passion, and commitment are still present within you waiting to emerge from hibernation once again.

The holiday season is one of wishful thinking. Magic and wonder fill our hearts. If you need a reminder of that, just look in the eyes of your students. Allow their innocence, imagination, and inquiry to inspire you to believe; believe

again in why you chose this profession, believe again in the place you are standing, and most importantly believe again in the power you hold in a student’s world.

I believe most of us can agree that North Carolina is in need of a new season and changes. These changes should be reflected in how our students engage in their learning experiences. Progressively moving North Carolina to be one of the top ten most educated states by 2025 will not be a reality without you. Just as students are sources of renewal and inspiration for you; remember that you are that source for other educators. You walking into this field reminds us of why we began our journey through the changing seasons of education so many years ago.

With the spirit of the season, my Holiday Wishlist for beginning teachers is that you:

- * Believe that all students can learn.
- * Self-reflect.
- * Celebrate your successes.
- * Learn from your students.
- * Collaborate with colleagues.

- * Identify the resources you have in front of you.
- * Build lasting relationships that are supportive.
- * Remember that you are IMPORTANT!

More than my wishlist for you, here are the holiday gifts that will come:

- * It gets better.
- * You will learn how to operate better.
- * You will grow and adapt to changes that are necessary.
- * Some students will surprise you and do better than expected.
- * Another break is coming.
- * We tend to remember the good things that happen more than the bad.
- * You will discover new concepts to employ.

Nelson Mandela stated that, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” While nature changes seasons, remember that you change souls.

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