

A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC



Regional Education Facilitators – NC Department of Public Instruction
<http://regedfac.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/home>



A Message from the 2018 North Central Teacher of the Year, Kedecia Stewart



You are a champion!

Rita Pierson stated that, "Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insist they become the best they can possibly be."

We have the single most important job in the world and that is to teach, nurture, and inspire children so that they will have the skills, discipline, and motivation necessary to become productive citizens. It is not by chance that you have committed your time, efforts and talents to mold the minds of our youth. You have been called for such a time like this because you are a CHAMPION. Yes, you are a champion!!! A champion for children.

As a champion, you must let your passion speak!

Passion is what drives people to push towards achieving their goals despite the challenges they face. I will be the first one to say that no two classrooms will look or sound the same, but what they should have in common are teachers who care deeply about their success and who plan and teach with passion, commitment, and dedication. Your passion sets you apart. Teaching is an affair of the heart. Every day you enter your rooms, you have tiny eyes and big hearts that await you. They await your structure and consistency: your creative lesson and your smile, but more importantly, they look forward to seeing the fire in your eyes: that fire that says I believe in you: I have faith in your abilities and that I will never give up on you no matter how challenging you may get. What I want you to understand is that to a child you are everything. You may be the first and only person that takes the time to listen. The first and only one that takes the time to show you truly care. The truth is human beings will often forget what was said but they will never forget how you made them feel. Let your passion for education be evident regardless of the challenges you face both personally and professionally. Your passion becomes contagious and so you will realize that your students and colleagues will soon start to mirror the energy you put forth. When children get passionate about their learning, they become innovative, creative and enthusiastic; this will increase their academic performance.

Edtech Tips

Planning assignments and projects to engage students during the weeks before Winter Break can be a task that will likely require students to use technology. 'Classroom instruction is being transformed by technology. Recent, dramatic increases in student access to technology through bring-your-own-device (BYOD) and 1:1 initiatives have provided teachers with blended and virtual learning opportunities for their students that can fundamentally change how learning occurs. As the traditional classroom evolves into an environment rich in technology, educators are looking for guidance on how to choose the best educational technology (edtech) solutions.'" Read the rest of this article for more information and resources that can help with the selection of edtech tools by visiting <http://blog.edmentum.com/how-evaluate-edtech-tools-support-teaching-learning> or check out their quick reference [Education Technology Evaluation Guide!](#) Happy Holidays!



Be the change you want to see - A true champion:

- Spreads Positivity** - your energy is contagious - give the right energy.
 - Makes a Difference** - strive to be the glimmer of hope for those around you.
 - Enjoys Teaching** - enjoy the good times and reflect on the struggles.
 - Gets Personal** - teach each child as if they belong to your family.
 - Gives 100%** - anything else is not your best.
 - Stays Organized** - keep your priorities in line.
 - Is Open-Minded** - receive growth producing feedback- yes it to blossom.
 - Has Standards** - set high expectations and help your students to achieve them.
 - Finds Inspiration** - in yourself, your students and the faculty around you.
 - Embraces Change** - from change comes growth. Never be afraid to fail forward.
 - Creates Reflection** - At the end of every day take the time to reflect on your strengths and weakness and create a plan for the new day ahead. It is normal to have rough days but it is never ok to remain in those rough times.
- As champions of our profession, I want you to always be aware of the value that you add to the world every day. You are powerful and strong and I believe that the years ahead will be greater than you ever imagine. Teaching is a glorious profession and you are made for this!!
- On your good days celebrate your achievement. On your challenging days celebrate your successes no matter how small. On days when you want to hand in the towel remember that some child somewhere is depending on you to show up. Always remember that you are a champion and a true champion never yields under pressure.
- Here is a champions' chant** - I choose to move forward everyday growing and learning as I go! I can learn anything! I can know anything! I can be anything! I have amazing potential and I can make good choices. Today I will treat others with kindness and I will be a friend to someone in need. **Choose to be a champion.**