

A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC

Regional Education Facilitators – NC Department of Public Instruction



A Message from the 2018 Sandhills Regional Teacher of the Year, Lindsay Sise

Resolutions, Rejuvenate, and Renewal



Happy New Year! Traditionally, this time of year is one of resolution and rejuvenation. Winter break makes a tremendous difference for new teachers. It allows you to resume a more normal lifestyle, with plenty of rest, food, exercise, and time for family and friends. This breath of fresh air gives novice teachers a broader perspective with renewed hope. The

new year is an opportunity to put past problems behind you and start fresh.

Resolve to try something new in your classroom. Your first year of teaching is an excellent opportunity to try new ideas. Use the new year as a way to reimagine/rejuvenate your classroom and your teaching.

5 ways to rejuvenate your classroom:

Reimagine your classroom's design- Give your room new life by turning it into a comfortable place that students yearn to visit. Try that seating arrangement you have been dreaming about. Add carpet squares, pillows or bean bags for a more open seating plan, use an old chair or couch to help students relax and get in the mindset of learning.

Replace lecture with discovery- How can you help your students discover information on their own? Lecture less and let the kids use what's available to them to discover the information. Limit the lectures and give students time to explore on their own.

Replace worksheets and workbooks with digital learning tools- Students have access to many platforms of social media; Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Facebook... Use these to your advantage and allow them to post assignment to these platforms instead of turning in a paper copy. Imagine the engagement you will get.

Replace most independent seat work with collaboration- Encourage your students to talk and move. As teachers, we are responsible for teaching more than the basic curriculum. We are responsible for teaching students to work collaboratively, to get along with peers, and to produce a final product with a group. Allow students to collaborate on projects that you would have made independent.

Replace one-off activities with ongoing projects- Create opportunities for students to demonstrate learning, and let them choose how to do it. A yearlong project is the perfect opportunity for powerful conversations about learning, and mastery of learning.

If you are a beginning teacher, take this time to reflect on your year thus far. Is there anything that you wish you would have done differently? A lesson plan, a project, classroom management... Make a resolution to do one of these differently for the remainder of the year. Plan a lesson with a colleague that teaches a different subject, revamp that project and do it again, learn some new techniques for managing your classroom. Remember it's never too late to start over and the new year is a perfect time to do it. Resolve to rejuvenate; your teaching, your classroom, yourself! Best of luck in the coming months.

bit.ly/15greatrules

15 Rules of Great Teaching

by TeachThought

- 1. Start small.**
Take your time. Teaching is a marathon, not a sprint.
- 2. There is no one way.**
Learning models vary according to the task and your students.
- 3. Trust the people around you.**
Parents, colleagues, and especially students.
- 4. In learning, curiosity is everything.**
If you can't make them curious, teach something else.
- 5. Experiment, experiment, experiment.**
Teaching is a craft. Play with it. Keep on learning and stay relevant.
- 6. You don't have to start planning with a standard.**
There are dozens of ways to plan content.
- 7. Teaching is always changing.**
Technology, curriculum, assessment, value systems, etc. So stay up to date.
- 8. Be concise.**
When explaining, less is more.
- 9. Know your pedagogy.**
Confusing, complex, differentiation-personalized learning, difficulty-rigour: All terms you should know.
- 10. Help students ask great questions.**
They need to see what a great question implies.
- 11. Be interesting.**
Be unpredictable, challenge authority. Connect with your students.
- 12. It's not about you.**
Don't be the center of attention. It's about your students.
- 13. Love your content.**
Mastery of your content can make everything easier.
- 14. Be your students' biggest cheerleader.**
Celebrate kids' work all the time!
- 15. Learning should disrupt.**
Make beautiful things happen inside/outside the classroom.

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Early Bird Registration for the 2019 Connecting Communities of Education Stakeholders (CCES) is now open.

March 18-21, 2019 | Sheraton Greensboro Hotel & Koury Convention Center - Greensboro, NC

Those who register before February 15th will receive a discount. Registration Link: bit.ly/registercces19