



A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC

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



A Message from : Southeast Region Teacher of the Year– Joshua Gaskill

The End of the Year is Near

With 9 weeks of school left, and end of the year assessments on the horizon, preparing students to do their best is always a focus for teachers. It is important that students not feel stressed about the tests. Reassure students that all their hard work this year has prepared them to be successful on the assessments. If testing days are approached as “just another day,” and not overemphasized as the most important few days of the year, students will be more relaxed and more likely to do their best each day. Start now reminding students they have the skills and the knowledge to do well.

Know that no matter what grade level, students can experience some degree of stress. Many students worry about testing days. Some will have trouble sleeping, some may have butterflies, and some may actually become sick, all from being anxious and nervous about testing. Offer them ideas for managing their anxiety, like deep breathing techniques.

Remember: K-2 students are assessed through Reading 3D, 3rd graders are taking the EOG for the first time, 5th graders are taking the science test for the first time, middle school students have EOGs, and high school students have EOCs/NC Final Exams/and AP tests.



As we near the end of the school year, are you finding yourself needing some motivation? I want to share with you a simple, yet powerful teacher quote that has stuck with me throughout my career: “To teach is to touch lives forever!” Just stop and think about those words. The impacts you are making today will forever leave a positive impression for a lifetime. How awesome is that?! You are important to this profession and you are important to your students. As June draws near, keep up the momentum not only for yourself but also for your students. Now is the time to try that lesson plan you have been working on for weeks that will keep the excitement going in your classroom. As some of you might have already experienced, it is very easy to become complacent in the classroom, especially towards the end of the

school year. I would like to challenge you to continue to seek valuable learning opportunities for your students and not to be afraid to “think outside the box.” When working with beginning teachers, some find it easy to just play it safe and not take the risk. I myself have been guilty of this. However, I want to encourage you to take the risk! The concept of “failing forward” is one that I like to share with beginning teachers. We are all going to make mistakes and fall short sometimes. That great lesson might not come across as great to our students. Do we give up? No! We must self-reflect, and try again. What was it about our instructional method that was not as effective? What can I do better next time to ensure mastery of that particular concept for my students? As you grow and mature as a teacher, these “learning oppor-

tunities” become just as important to you as they do your students. The best teachers are the ones who are not afraid to “fail forward.” Remember, you are the driving force in your classroom regarding student engagement. If you are excited and passionate about what you are teaching, that will be contagious to your students. I think about my students as if they were my own children and ask myself, “Am I being the kind of teacher I would want my son to have?” I use this question at the forefront of my self-reflection every day. Even if you are not a parent, this question can still hold true. Continue to be the best teacher you can be for your students! As the days get a little longer, and as the motivation seems to be lacking at times, always remember that teaching is the most important profession to have a positive impact on the future...”to teach is to touch lives forever!”

[Joshua Gaskill– Pamlico County Schools– Pamlico High School- History](#)

It’s That Time of Year: Summary Evaluations

For those who are first year teachers, April typically is the time of year when principals hold summary evaluations. After three administrative observations and one peer observation are completed, the administrator takes all the data and creates the evaluation. At the summary evaluation conference, teachers will receive a rating for each of the five standards. During this conference, teachers can share artifacts with administrators to

demonstrate proficiency on the standards. Once the summary evaluation is completed, a teacher has an opportunity to make comments, if he/she chooses to do so, and then a signature is required. As a first or second year teacher, receiving a rating of Developing is no cause for concern. However, a third year teacher will want to make sure all ratings are proficient or higher on the standards. This can impact a teacher’s license conversion from a (SP 1) Standard

Professional 1 to a (SP 2) Standard Professional 2 (continuing) license. Remember: the North Carolina Educator Evaluation System is one that is intended to promote growth for teachers. Working towards proficiency on the elements listed under each standard is the key to reaching an overall rating of Proficient.



Reminder: Beginning Teacher Summits will be held in the 8 regions the last week in June! Ask your coordinator for details on how to attend from your district/school. Space is limited to 100 participants per region.