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Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!



Teachers are so important in shaping the lives of their students. You mean a lot to a lot of people. Thank you for all your hard work!

This "Top 10 Requirements for Good Teaching" was written by Professor Richard Leblanc, Ph.D. and originally appeared in *The Teaching Professor* (Vol. 12, # 6, 1998) after Professor Leblanc won a Seymour Schulich Award for Teaching Excellence

1. Good teaching is as much about passion as it is about reason. It's about not only motivating students to learn, but teaching them how to learn, and doing so in a manner that is relevant, meaningful, and memorable. It's about caring for your craft, having a passion for it, and conveying that passion to everyone, most importantly to your students.
2. Good teaching is about substance and treating students as consumers of knowledge. It's about doing your best to keep on top of your field, reading sources, inside and outside of your areas of expertise, and being at the leading edge as often as possible. But knowledge is not confined to scholarly journals. Good teaching is also about bridging the gap between theory and practice. It's about leaving the ivory tower and immersing oneself in the field, talking to, consulting with, and assisting practitioners, and liaisoning with their communities.
3. Good teaching is about listening, questioning, being responsive, and remembering that each student and class is different. It's about eliciting responses and developing the oral communication skills of the quiet students. It's about pushing students to excel; at the same time, it's about being human, respecting others, and being professional at all times.
4. Good teaching is about not always having a fixed agenda and being rigid, but being flexible, fluid, experimenting, and having the confidence to react and adjust to changing circumstances. It's about getting only 10 percent of what you wanted to do in a class done and still feeling good. It's about deviating from the course syllabus or lecture schedule easily when there is more and better learning elsewhere. Good teaching is about the creative balance between being an authoritarian dictator on the one hand and a pushover on the other.
5. Good teaching is also about style. Should good teaching be entertaining? You bet!

Does this mean that it lacks in substance? Not a chance! Effective teaching is not about being locked with both hands glued to a podium or having your eyes fixated on a slide projector while you drone on. Good teachers work the room and every student in it. They realize that they are the conductors and the class is the orchestra. All students play different instruments and at varying proficiencies.

6. This is very important -- good teaching is about humor. It's about being self-deprecating and not taking yourself too seriously. It's often about making innocuous jokes, mostly at your own expense, so that the ice breaks and students learn in a more relaxed atmosphere where you, like them, are human with your own share of faults and shortcomings.

7. Good teaching is about caring, nurturing, and developing minds and talents. It's about devoting time, often invisible, to every student. It's also about the thankless hours of grading, designing or redesigning courses, and preparing materials to still further enhance instruction.

8. Good teaching is supported by strong and visionary leadership, and very tangible institutional support -- resources, personnel, and funds. Good teaching is continually reinforced by an overarching vision that transcends the entire organization -- from full professors to part-time instructors -- and is reflected in what is said, but more importantly by what is done.

9. Good teaching is about mentoring between senior and junior faculty, teamwork, and being recognized and promoted by one's peers. Effective teaching should also be rewarded, and poor teaching needs to be remediated through training and development programs.

10. At the end of the day, good teaching is about having fun, experiencing pleasure and intrinsic rewards ... like locking eyes with a student in the back row and seeing the synapses and neurons connecting, thoughts being formed, the person becoming better, and a smile cracking across a face as learning all of a sudden happens. Good teachers practice their craft not for the money or because they have to, but because they truly enjoy it and because they want to. Good teachers couldn't imagine doing anything else.



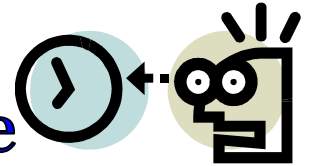
ABLE Programs Offering Summer Classes

Here is the list we have so far...

Ashtabula.....	440.576.6015 ext. 1057
Canton.....	330.438.2559
Elyria.....	440.284.8251
Geauga County.....	440.279.1700

Mahoning County Career & Tech.....	330.729.4100 ext. 1431
Massillon.....	330.830.1836
Painesville.....	440.354.5551
Parma.....	440.885.8797
Trumbull Career & Tech.....	330.847.0503 ext. 1611

Stipend and Reimbursement Deadline



As you all know the end of the year is right around the corner, so we would like to remind you that **the deadline to submit for a stipend or reimbursement is June 15th**. After June 15 we will be unable to pay for an event attended in FY 2008, so get those forms in ASAP.



On Speaking and Cultural Terms Pronunciation CD ROM

On Speaking and Cultural Terms Student Audio Program for Difficult Sounds is back! All 27 languages have been added and the sound quality updated. Visit www.neable.org/esol/esol to use the web-based program. You can also request a CD-Rom from bodega@neable.org.

Issues and Solutions for Low-Level/ Non-Literate ESOL Students



Issues and Solutions for Low-Level/Non-Literate ESOL Students

Too often struggling ESOL students are labeled as learning disabled when actually, there are other very real issues to be considered. Robin Loverin Schwartz has widely researched this area and written much about what she calls the *5 Sources of Struggle* for ESOL learners. The following articles provide assistance to teachers with struggling ESOL students.

Preparing Non/Preliterate Learners for Literacy

Teaching What Comes BEFORE Phonemic Awareness

Preventing Pedagogically Induced Learning Problems (PILPS)

All are available at www.neable.org/basic-skills/learningdisabilities. Other works by Robin include, *Taking a Closer Look at Struggling ESOL Learners*, downloadable at www.ncsall.net/?id=994.



Basic Math Training

GREAT COURSES – BASIC MATH

Do you want to improve your math knowledge in a particular content area? Do you want to help your students succeed in college level math? Do you have students that want to attend college and need a high level class in mathematics? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, the “**Great Courses - Basic Math**” trainings are what you’re looking for.

The purpose of the Basic Math course is to prepare students for Algebra 1, but the DVDs also provide a great review of the skills necessary for the GED test. Teachers and their GED students will benefit by these lessons. Teachers will get lots of ideas for presenting lessons along with a great review of basic math. ABL students will learn the content necessary for the GED. With the movement of ABL from the Ohio Department of Education to the Ohio Board of Regents, these trainings provide a great way to help you and your students improve your skills to prepare for higher level math expectations.

The 30 lessons have been divided into six alternate delivery activities/trainings. Teachers can do one or all six of these activities depending on your math needs. Each activity is made up of five 30 minute lessons. The DVD instructor provides opportunities for practicing the math content during instruction, and there is a short assessment at the end of each lesson. Vocabulary is stressed throughout the series of lessons, and the math content is related to real life situations.

AVAILABLE MONDAY, 5/12/08

The Basic Math 1 training consists of five lessons. Topics covered include **Introduction and Review of Addition and Subtraction; Multiplication and Division, Long Division; Introduction to Fractions; and Addition of Fractions.** This training is a good review for a teacher uncomfortable with mathematics.

The Basic Math 2 training consists of five lessons which cover **Subtraction of Fractions; Multiplication of Fractions; Division and Review of Fractions; Addition and Subtraction of Decimals; and Multiplication and Division of Decimals.** Basic Math 2 is a great training to use with students to help them improve their skills, or it is a good review for a teacher uncomfortable with mathematics.

COMING SOON!

The Basic Math 3 training consists of 5 lessons. Topics include: **Using the Calculator; Fractions, Decimals, and Percents; Percent Problems; Ratios and Proportions; and Exponents and the Order of Operations.**

The Basic Math 4 training also consists of 5 lessons. The topics in this training are becoming more difficult. The DVD includes lessons on **Adding and Subtracting Integers; Multiplication and Division of Integers, and an Introduction to Square Roots; Negative and Fractional Powers; Geometry I; and**

Geometry II.

Prepared to be challenged with the Basic Math 5 training contains 5 lessons. The lessons cover the topics **Graphing in the Coordinate Plane; Number Theory; Number Patterns I; Number Patterns II;** and **Statistics.**

Finally, the Basic Math 6 program concludes with lessons on **Probability; Measurement; Problem Solving Techniques; Solving Simple Equations;** and **Introduction to Algebra 1.**

Basic Math 1 and 2 will be available on **Monday, May 12th.** Others will follow shortly. Please go to www.neable.org to the training calendar and click on **Alternative Delivery Professional Development** to register for these trainings.

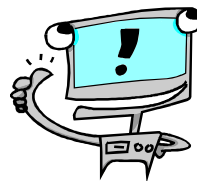


Worksheet Library

In honor of National Teacher Week, the Worksheet Library is offering a discount on membership for teachers through May 11, 2008.

If you aren't interested in becoming a member, then check out this week's highlighted printable worksheets at www.worksheetlibrary.com for free.

Matt's Tech Tips



Tech Tips VI

Do you speak "Nerdic"?

An article came through on one of my RSS feeds about the vocabulary of technology that got my synapses firing. *Nerdic*, also known as *geek speak*, has been coined by a company in the UK as the verbiage of technology. It sounds silly, but have you ever "googled" a topic.

While speaking geek is not essential to your craft, a good basic knowledge of computer and technology vocabulary can help ease the stress of communicating your technology woes. Check out these links to start:

<http://cuip.uchicago.edu/wit/2000/curriculum/homeroommodules/compBasics/CBTerminology.htm>

<http://www.terra.edu/learning/ElderCollege/computer/Basicterms.asp>

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/glossary.htm>

Digital Information Fluency - <http://21cif.imsa.edu/index.html>

This site was created by the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy to help teachers and students develop their Digital Information Fluency, defined as “the ability to use digital information effectively, efficiently and ethically” (<http://21cif.imsa.edu/resources/difcore/index.html>) .

Navigating through the digital realm can be overwhelming, but the benefits of knowing how to conduct well defined search queries, find and access digital information, and evaluate the quality of digital information cannot be understated. If this piques your curiosity and your dreams of becoming web savvy, take some time to browse the site.

Grant Opportunities



"Comcast Foundation Grants Support Youth Leadership Development"

The Comcast Foundation is awarding grants to maximize the impact of community investments so they yield tangible, measurable benefits to the neighborhoods Comcast serves and the people who live there. The foundation's primary focus is in funding diversity-oriented programs that address literacy, volunteerism and youth leadership development.

Maximum Award: \$570,000.

Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations operating within communities that Comcast serves.

Deadline: N/A.

<http://www.comcast.com/corporate/about/inthecommunity/foundation/comcastfoundation.html>

"Labels for Education"

Campbell's Labels for Education Program gives schools free educational equipment in exchange for labels from Campbell products.

Maximum Award: N/A.

Eligibility: Schools or parents coordinate label drives to raise resources for schools.

Deadline: N/A.

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com/about.aspx>



The Resource Room

NEED TO FINISH UP YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE YEAR?

Hopefully everyone has completed their Professional Development, but if you still have work to do, we recommend the following alternative delivery PD opportunities which are available on a first come, first served basis. Please see the training calendar at www.neable.org and click on “Alternative Delivery” for a full description of each training and for registration.

- A Framework for Understanding Poverty
 - A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier
 - A Whole New Mind
 - Beyond F.A.T. City: a Look Back, a Look Ahead
 - Destination America
 - Do You Speak American?
 - ESL 101: Beginning ESOL
 - God Grew Tired of Us
 - How to Plan and Administer the TABE 9 & 10
 - Teacher Man
 - The Freedom Writers Diary
 - Why Reading is Hard
-

Thoughts on Leadership

Thoughts on Leadership is presented as an attachment to the Friday NewsBriefs.