

SUGGESTIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Welcome to the start of a new year! I know as summer starts to come to an end and students eagerly arrive in your class the anticipation and challenges of another school year has begun. The most obvious and most important part of our ever changing teaching context is the student no matter what their age. This is true whether we're teaching kindergarten, elementary, middle or high school students, If we pay attention to changing trends in our programs we can use this to help meet our students needs. What we know about today's "millennial" student is they tend to be; very inquisitive, familiar with various means of communication, media savvy, socially and digi-



tally connected young people who have for the most part grown up in a protected environment. For example they're accustomed to lots of control: they chose their own adventures in children's books, have cre-

ated the plot line in video games, tried their hands at numerous sports and arts. They expect to engage and to be engaged. In our classroom, they are eager learners if we can find the way to motivate and intrigue them. Many of our students want to participate, contribute, and reframe, we just have to **resist** controlling or deconstructing our course content so that it loses its appeal. Change your thinking, if you see your students as partners or even as apprentices, you can give them more responsibility to contribute to the learning environment, to interact with you and certainly with their peers. Remember the adage, "each one teach one" can work in your classroom. Allow them to practice their new content and skills and demonstrate their knowledge more publicly. Design your course to build on students' energy and to create an environment for participation and learning, building on their desire for interaction and harness it to promote deep learning of your course's content. Remember we can learn with and from our students as they probe into projects that require problem –solving, creativity, and hard work. Above all Don't be afraid to say to the students, "I'm not

sure that I have all the answers but together we can learn and expand our knowledge and know where to look for the answer." This way we're not just catering to students or yielding control so that they'll like us! We are simply meeting students where they are and capitalizing on their breadth of knowledge and enthusiasm. By involving the students in the course work they will become part of the framework for living in and understand the world.

For more suggestion and information on engaging your students and changing some of your classroom delivery techniques visit the NEA website at NEA.org. Click on tools and ideas. Also there are hundreds of lesson plans available on the NEA site. Check them out!

SAVE THE DATE!

AEA, VEA and NEA member benefits Fall Professional Development Workshops.

Teacher Evaluation, What You Really Need To Know!

VEA Attorney, Dena Rosenkrantz and AEA Director Kelly Paine.

**October 28, 2010, Kenmore Middle School
4:30pm to 6:00 pm.**

Social Networking Protecting Your Online Integrity.

VEA Attorney, Dena Rosenkrantz and AEA Director Kelly Paine.

**November 1, 2010 , Kenmore Middle School
4:30pm to 6:00pm**

Making NEA Member Benefits Work for you!

NEA Members benefits Jennifer Theutt

**December 8, 2010, Kenmore Middle School
4:30pm to 6:00pm**

Safety Concerns



Do not use your personal email or cell phone to contact students, parents, etc.. Use only the school provided email and/or phone. I know that sometimes its easier to just dash off a note to someone when you are seated at home in front of your computer or texting on your phone, and that's fine if you are doing it with friends or family

Also, remember you can delete school mail but you can not empty trash so your email will be archived for several years by APS.

The best advice is if you don't want it on the front page don't send that message from a personal account, think before you hit that send key!

Welcome to Our New Members

The annual new hire luncheon, that is sponsored and provided by AEA, was very successful this year. We were delighted to meet and greet the newest members of Arlington Schools. If you have not had a chance to say hi to your new teachers in your school, be sure to stop by their room and welcome them. We have approximately 80 new members and we are delighted they have joined our Professional Association. If you have a new teacher in your building invite them to join, if they have not .



Many, many thanks to all the members both current and retired who came to help. You are the best and we appreciate you so much!

Invitation to join us!

You are invited to attend the Delegate Assembly any time. Our first meeting will be held at:

Kenmore Middle Black Box Theater

Monday September 20, 2010

4:15 to 6:00pm

BE SURE TO COME & BRING A FRIEND!

Light refreshments will be served

GO GREEN

JOIN AEA ON FACEBOOK FOR AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE ACTION REPORT

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10% discount on entire work order to AEA members

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Arlington Education Association– Your Association Working for YOU!

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