Better Teaching®

Tips for Teachers Calendar

Elementary Edition

Induction & Success
Guilford County Schools

September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 "Our aspirations are our possibilities." —*Samuel Johnson*
2 Mail a letter home to parents. Introduce yourself and outline your goals for the year.	**3** Save a few copies of your first-day packet for students who enroll later.	**4** Give your students the class rules. Send home a copy for parents to read and sign.	**5** Practice some class procedures—asking for help, sharpening pencils, turning in work, etc.	**6** Tell parents about how much time each homework assignment should take.	**7** Have students write (or dictate) their hopes and dreams for this year.	**8** Set aside time today for some physical activity.
9 Set a goal of making at least five positive parent contacts per week—that's just one a day!	**10** Record your students' "most important hopes" on a chart. "Rachel hopes to read better."	**11** Tell parents what to do if their child struggles with homework.	**12** Create a class motto with your students. Post it outside your door.	**13** Give students tape measures. Have them measure doors, books, desks—even each other.	**14** Take pictures of students at work and play. Display these for Parents' Night.	**15** Create a class web page. Link it to your school's website, if possible.
16 "We first make our habits and then our habits make us." —*John Dryden*	**17** Arrive at school just 15 minutes early and your whole *week* will be off to a good start.	**18** Begin the day with a short physical warm-up—good for bodies *and* brains.	**19** Find out how parents prefer to be contacted: phone (home, work or cell) or email.	**20** Play "silent math" while in line—solving problems with fingers and hand signals.	**21** Model lifelong learning. Offer a pencil to a student who teaches you something new.	**22** Make a list of "five-minute fillers"—quick activities to make the most of every second.
23 Sign up for a class that's *un*related to what you teach. **30** Tackle a tough task for just 15 minutes.	**24** At the end of each day, ask students to list three things they learned.	**25** Laminate a class list. Use it to quickly mark off who has turned things in.	**26** Create "want ads" for volunteer jobs. Include some jobs parents can do at home.	**27** Hang clipboards around your room. Use them to hold passes, worksheets, etc.	**28** Take photos of students following class rules. Create a bulletin board to illustrate them.	**29** Create a "What Did I Miss?" folder for students who are absent.

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