Better Teaching®

Tips for Teachers Calendar

Elementary Edition

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Have students highlight the operation signs before they begin their math calculations.	**2** Keep a CD or MP3 player in your classroom. Listen to music as you grade papers.	**3** "Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier." —*Colin Powell*
4 Start your own "praise file"—it will pick you up on a day when you're feeling down.	**5** Document discipline issues in your class. Remember—if it's not documented, it didn't happen.	**6** Hold an election to vote for your students' favorite book. Be sure they give campaign speeches.	**7** Make today "Deal With it Day." Tackle paperwork you've been putting off.	**8** Challenge students: How many coin combinations add up to 27 cents?	**9** Take a few minutes to straighten your desk. On Monday, you'll be glad you did.	**10** Take a walk and enjoy just being outdoors.
11 Plan to do something fun with a colleague—*outside* of school.	**12** It's Children's Book Week. Plan daily activities to highlight great books.	**13** Have students create their own audio books. Keep them in your classroom library.	**14** Invite parents to be "guest readers" in your class throughout the year.	**15** Have students estimate the number of books in your library.	**16** Make Monday "Dress Up As Your Favorite Book Character Day."	**17** Look for an audio book you can listen to as you commute to school.
18 Go to bed 15 minutes early tonight.	**19** Put a funny joke or cartoon in your top desk drawer or your planning book.	**20** Ask students to act out (instead of reading aloud) a passage they are reading.	**21** Is there a big community project coming up? Perhaps your students can volunteer.	**22** Think about your students. Look for something positive in every child.	**23** Look for a quotation that expresses your philosophy of teaching.	**24** "The important thing is not to stop questioning." —*Albert Einstein*
25 Buy or prepare some healthy snacks to take to school this week.	**26** Create an "Estimation Jar." Each week, fill it with different items for students to estimate.	**27** Wait at least three seconds after asking a question before you call on a student.	**28** Ask students for an "exit ticket." Have them write one thing they learned today on a strip of paper.	**29** Challenge students to create their own game to teach a math or science concept.	**30** Do your photocopying for Monday before you leave today.	

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