

10 Tips for Thriving in the Classroom

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1. **Stay student centered**- keep students at the core of what you do- always do what you know is in the best interest of your students. THIS IS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO DO! Strive for BALANCE between student needs. Academic, social and emotional. Think of the whole student, no matter what the age. And FLEXIBILITY is #1! (Especially right now) Students need teachers to provide structure and routine, but with distance learning right now, educators need to be flexible and to care for the whole child.
2. **Value relationships**- Administration, colleagues, school staff- especially **office manager** and **custodians**. MOST IMPORTANT THING RIGHT NOW – stay healthy and encourage connectivity - remind them- **you matter**.
3. **Enjoy your curriculum**- deep dive into what you do. Become the strongest you can be! Give yourself time to relax and rejuvenate once the school year is over and then get ready to roll. Create a schedule and attend professional development to support your personal development. **This summer is the time to become a distance learning expert**.
4. **BE GREAT!** No one wants a teacher that is only so-so. Think about this- What kind of teacher do you want? **Parents, children, adults- we all want the same fundamentals- to feel competent, valued, and cared for**. Nurture these needs from the start. **Right now parents need teachers in totally different ways**. Step up to the plate!
5. Maximize your effectiveness by **meeting each student where they are** (not where you think they should be).
6. **Set Boundaries**: Model healthy boundaries for your students. Do not give out your personal number to your students or parents. Don't accept students and parents on your social media platforms. Set the boundaries YOU need.
7. Find a **partner in crime** – develop a special friendship with 1 colleague – be each other's biggest source of support. Have FUN together!
8. Always have a **customer service focus** – the person in front of you is your most important customer. Education is just like a business. The students and parents are our customers. Don't forget that.
9. **Prepare for your first year**- You will be exhausted (and so inspired and motivated) by your first year in the classroom - try to keep life outside of school simple. Don't get married, have a baby, plan a major move, have a global pandemic (ha, ha) etc. Take time off – do not work during summer unless you absolutely have to. Mental health days- take them!
10. **Nourish Your Soul**- **Keep the fire in the belly (the fire in YOUR belly) – BE THE CHANGE** for your students. **Make sure to DO WHAT YOU LOVE**. Children, teens and young adults are relying on US as educators to model how to get through the pandemic. **Not just to survive, but to THRIVE**. Our approach becomes the model for others.

ALWAYS REMEMBER: Be the PERSON and TEACHER your students need.