

Advice for Beginning Teachers

“The greatest privilege is to invent our own future.”

- Ask a lot of questions and share your problems. We are all always learning.
- Be flexible and willing to adapt to situations.
- Keep your sense of humor and enjoy your students and colleagues.
- Listen a lot. Speak up when it's appropriate.
- Keep clear notes on each child in your elementary classroom. Keep notes on any secondary student when you are concerned. Documentation will sometimes seem like a waste of time, but you may need to refer to it someday.
- Wait with giving advice to experienced teachers or suggesting curriculum or policy changes.
- Avoid sharing your personal life with students.
- Become familiar with the community's expectations for teachers.
- Avoid getting too friendly with students or becoming their confidant. Refer students to school counselors.
- Use school equipment only for professional purposes.
- Avoid talking negatively about your predecessor, fellow staff, or administration.
- Talk about students to other teachers only when you're praising them or seeking assistance in working with them.
- Disclose private student information, positive or negative, only to the student's parents/guardians.
- Always follow through on verbal or written agreements with peers, students, parents, or administrators.