

WEEK 22

Dear NEA Members,

Greetings! There are many new ideas out there to help teachers. NEA has created a web-site called "Works-4-Me" which are tried and true teaching hints suggested by NEA members. Each week you will receive an e-mail with six helpful (and short) hints to help you in your teaching. They will fall under the following categories:

Teaching Techniques
Content
Getting Organized
Managing Your Classroom
Relationships
Using Technology

In addition, you will get information about your NEA Member Benefits that are available to you through your membership in the Association. Click on the link or visit www.neamb.com.

Teaching Techniques

Group Review

"A great review learning activity is to have students divide a piece of paper into 4 quadrants. Then they wad the paper up and throw it on the floor. Each student now grabs another piece of paper and repeats the activity, writing in another quadrant. Students can't write something that they already wrote OR repeat something already on the sheet. After repeating this activity four times, I chose one student to read something from her sheet. That student chooses another student, who has to explain/perform/demonstrate the one thing the previous student read as well as something from his sheet. We keep repeating until all students have been called on. This is a great way to review and have fun."

Content

Novel Bookmarks

?My students have difficulty with comprehension and sequential events when reading novels. They use an index card marked with the chapter

they're reading as their bookmark. On the card, they jot down one or two sentences about the chapter, any difficult words and the characters they met. This only takes a few minutes because it is done when the chapter is fresh in their minds. We continue this throughout the book and keep our bookmarks together with elastic. At the end of the book, we read the cards as a review. This is a great way to keep track of sequential happenings and write up a book summary. (I borrowed this idea from my daughter who thought of this when she was in the sixth grade.)?

Getting Organized

Beginning of Year

"This is a tip that I heard about from a retired colleague. One of the biggest chores when beginning a new year is decorating our rooms. Instead of planning and doing a welcome back bulletin board yourself before school starts why not have your current class plan and put together the board before they move on to the next grade? The teacher then simply covers the completed board with butcher paper and goes home for the summer with the knowledge that one back to school task is done! I send this now because to really have a nice board for next year - it's a good idea to let students plan and decorate a couple during the year."

Managing Your Classroom

Clothes Pins I

"I find time management in my classroom essential. I try to make short work of many tasks. To shorten attendance, my homeroom students enter my room and take their own attendance. I have placed an empty coffee can on a desk as they enter the room. Clothes pins are placed around the rim, each containing the name of one of the students. As they enter they drop their pin in the coffee can. Within minutes I can tell which students are absent."

Relationships

Parent Interests

"My opening letter to parents inquires about what their child's interests are but it also inquires about their interests. Once I find out their interests

whether it is music, writing, fractions or nutrition, I have a pool of experts to draw on all year. I can ask my parents to be guest speakers or come in and do demonstrations. Parents love to share their knowledge and experiences with their child's class."

Using Technology

Permanent Grids

"I make a grid with permanent marker on a transparency. I place a clean transparency over it and complete the graph as if it were on one sheet. When I'm finished, I just put another clean sheet on top and start again. Graphs on the overhead have never been easier and the work can be repeated quickly for students who missed it the first time."