

Week 28

Dear NEA Members,

Greetings! There are many new ideas out there to help **members**. 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 **professional life**. 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

Testing Practice

"I prepare my students for standardized tests beginning in September in several ways. I prepare all tests and quizzes, including spelling, in a standardized format. With my math chapter tests, I require that the paper showing work and checking be turned in. That lets me see where mistakes are made for re-teaching purposes and teaches students to get in the habit of copying the problem down and checking it on the extra paper. I make English quizzes in a paragraph form with the incorrect information underlined with a letter above it, just as in our standardized tests. I make my tests tricky, so students will realize that sometimes they must look more carefully than they first thought. As a result of all this preparation, when March tests begin, my students are comfortable with the format. The week before the tests we take a nice break from all this to allay the pressure. My class has practiced all year and the tests are like the final basketball game in a tournament."

Content

Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) Week

"We celebrate reading for a week. On Monday the teachers perform skits taken from familiar story books. On Tuesday at a given time our school will Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) whether students are in PE, music, etc. On Wednesday we have a storybook character parade/contest. On Thursday we have a short story writing/illustrating contest. On Friday local football players, cheerleaders and band members will come to our school for a pep rally for reading. Later that day city officials will visit schools and read to classrooms."

Getting Organized

Test Autopsies

"Whenever I give a major test, the kids have a chance to improve their scores by doing a test autopsy. They correct their mistakes and then write a half page reflection on why they did so poorly and what they should have done differently. They earn a half point for each corrected answer. For example, if they got 15 out of 25 and did an autopsy correcting them all, their new score would be 20. Not only do the parents love it, the test scores have improved and the students are really taking ownership of their work!"

Managing Your Classroom

Appropriate Talking Times

"Students love to have time to talk and to share gossip. In order to keep them from doing it during instruction, I apply 'My Time'. During 'My Time', they must pay attention. They can not talk nor disturb others who are trying to learn and to pay attention. At the end of class, 'Their Time' is the last five minutes. The students want to have a few minutes to talk and to share amongst themselves."

Relationships

Teacher Yearbooks

"To make new teachers feel welcome, we photocopy the teacher pages of the previous year's annual and give it to each new person. Under the pictures, we add first names and nicknames. This really helps new teachers get to know the names of the other staff members quickly and they tell us it

gives them much more confidence their first few days in a school full of strangers."

Using Technology

Computer Class Organization

"A computer lab can get cluttered in a hurry so I assign a Row Manager each day for each row of computers in the room. At the end of the period, this student is responsible for reminding other students to stay organized. The Row Managers get a small checklist of cleanup items.

- (1) Computers logged off.
- (2) Disks put away.
- (3) Paper off the floor.
- (4) Paper off the computer areas.
- (5) No books, pens, etc. left out.
- (6) All chairs pushed in.

The Row Manager leaves the checklist at the end of the row so that I can take a quick walk down the isles, collect the checklists and evaluate the clean up. Students get an extra credit point added to their grade for completing all the items on the list and I have a neat and organized classroom for the beginning of the next class."

NEA Member Benefit of the Week:

To make sure you receive all the benefits you are entitled to as an NEA member, please add NEA_Member_Benefits@NEAMemberBenefits.com to your address book. Thank you.

[Spring Ahead](#) | [Register](#) | [Win Prizes](#)

Our new "Spring Ahead" giveaway event has just begun! We're giving away over \$8,000 of exciting prizes as our way of showing you how much we appreciate all that you do. The event runs from March 1st through April 15th with new prizes every two weeks, so come back often. Our grand prize sweepstakes is a \$1,000 Getaway on the NEA — and there will be five lucky winners!

You could win our grand prize sweepstakes: \$1,000 Getaway on the NEA for a dream vacation!

You deserve a fabulous getaway as a reward for all your hard work. Picture yourself on an exotic beach or visit national parks with your family. You could be one of the five lucky NEA members to win a **\$1,000 Liberty Travel gift card**. Your adventure also includes a **car rental certificate from Alamo**, good for two days and valued at \$100.

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