

TIPS Alert- September 28, 2009

-Hope you had a restful and enjoyable weekend as you begin this new work week!

As we close out the month of September and enter October, keep in mind the excitement that keeps your students occupied outside of your classroom. Although Halloween is a month away, students are seeing Halloween decorations in all the stores and attending local Halloween and harvest festivities. High school students are excited about Homecoming week and pep-rallies, and everyone is ready for the county fair. Be aware that although you are continuing to teach everyday, your students' minds are often elsewhere. Plan instructional strategies that will get them up and moving and involved in the learning. Consider your calendar and the calendar of your students as you plan due dates for tests and projects. Give students opportunities to share their excitement while still engaging in the learning.

HELPFUL QUESTIONS

- **Who receives a copy of my long range plans?** Long range planning is the first performance standard by which accomplished teachers are evaluated in accordance with ADEPT. A copy of our long range plan should be submitted to your mentor, who will give you constructive feedback about the document, and to your principal, who will evaluate your planning.
- **No one has asked for my long range plans. What should I do?** It is your responsibility to submit your long range plan to your principal so he/she may evaluate your planning. If you have not already submitted your long range plan to your principal, you should do so immediately unless your principal has given you an extension on the due date.
- **I am very busy right now and cannot possibly attend any of the TIPS professional growth opportunities. How will I earn the 800 points required?** The TIPS professional growth opportunities have been designed to not only offer you a variety of choices and dates, but to also provide you with flexibility as to when you decide to seek assistance. Use the matrix and the calendars on-line to help you plan accordingly.
- **I don't think I have a mentor. Will I be penalized for not having a mentor?** Send an email to your principal requesting information about your mentor and letting your principal know you have not met the teacher who has been asked to serve as your mentor. Ideally, every induction teacher should have been assigned a mentor by now and should have had numerous sessions with that individual. However, some induction teachers have just been hired and may not have received the name of the individual who will be supporting them. Although the state department requires each induction teacher have a mentor, it is not the responsibility of the induction teacher to find his/her own mentor.
- **I tried to register for a workshop on ERO, but cannot do so. What should I do?** Contact the Educational Technology Specialist for your learning community via an email to let them know you are having a difficult time registering on ERO (Palmetto LC-Timothy Tanner; Lowcountry LC-Kristen Brittingham; MSLC-Elizabeth Lovett; HSLC-Lainey Berry). If you are still unable to register, send an email to me and I will advise you.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

- **Panel of Experts: Been There and Done It--**A team of second year educators will share their experience and insight about their first year teaching in Charleston County School District. This session will be held from 4:30-6:30 at West Ashley High School. Please register for this TIPS Induction Workshop on ERO.
- Remember, you have the option to complete the required observations of expert educators and/or elective collaborative analysis when you have time in your schedule.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns as you continue the work you are doing. Take care of yourself and have a wonderful week!

Melissa

Melissa Cario Parrish
Team Associate,
Office of Teacher Employment
Charleston County School District
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401
843.937.6572 (phone)
843.937.6577 (fax)
www.ccsdschools.com

Excellence is our Standard