MARCH MADNESS

Living in college basketball territory, we are all familiar with the term "March Madness". In addition to the madness we see on the basketball court, some of us may be feeling a little madness in our classrooms. March can be a challenging time of year. Mother Nature can’t make up her mind about the weather. The month is 31 days long and we lose an hour of sleep as we spring forward. The 3rd quarter comes to an end, and as we frantically correct student work and calculate grades, we wonder if we will make it through the craziness that is March.

With that said, there are also some highlights in March. Yes, we do lose an hour’s sleep, but I am thankful for the longer days. We celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and the first day of spring. Tulips and daffodils are in abundance. All the trees are budding and there’s nothing like that first 70 degree day that just puts a smile on my face.

So get out and enjoy the weather. Walk your dog, or cat, go on a hike, do some gardening, fluff up the outdoor pillows and cushions and celebrate spring. Of course, you can always root for your favorite basketball team in the NCAA tournament and don’t forget to vote on Super Tuesday. Soon we will be in the final quarter of the school year and waving goodbye to our students as they leave for summer vacation.

Important Dates in March

**COMPLETE THE TEACHER SURVEY!!**

March 3–Super Tuesday–Go Vote
March 8–Spring Forward
March 12–Quarter 3 ends–Full Day For Students
March 13–Required Work Day/PT Conferences
March 17–St. Patrick’s Day
March 19–First Day of Spring

Don’t forget to complete your mentor and peer observations! Observation forms are due in April
The Importance of Developing Rapport with Your Students

One of the recurring pieces of feedback we received on the question of "What are 3 areas of concern that you have?" had to do with classroom management and discipline. As a Beginning Teacher, or even a veteran teacher who is new to a district, building rapport with students is crucial to your success. As you observe veteran LCS teachers, you can see the support they have built with their students over time. It takes patience, a positive attitude and a toolbox of strategies. Here are a few articles that will definitely help you improve upon the positive classroom community you have been growing since August.

"Do You Have to 'Love' Every Student? And What if You Don't?" by Madeline Will

"25 Sure Fire Strategies for Handling Difficult Students" by Linda Shalaway

"6 Strategies for Dealing with 'Difficult' Students" by Dr. Allen Mendler
A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Need a little extra inspiration to get through the remainder of the school year? Why not take a break from March basketball and settle down with one of these teacher inspired movies. Better yet, check out the YouTube video of 20 inspirational movies for teachers.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TEACHER INSPIRED MOVIE?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Lisa Fisher from LMS-3/2
Phil Haworth from Charles England-3/12
Matthew Hogrefe from Southwest-3/18 and
Robin Leftwich from LMS-3/30
ENJOY!

You Deserve a Pat on the Back...
Here are some kind words from your mentors and administrators.

Jasmine Parrish is an asset to the South Lexington School. She has helped both her students and their parents log onto Istation. She is enthusiastic and constantly developing different strategies to meet the needs of all of her students. Way to go Jasmine!

Sean Davis at Pickett Elementary goes above and beyond. He is a reflective educator who adjusts as needed to meet the needs of his students. He develops rapport by cultivating personal relationships with both his students and their parents. His positive attitude brings out the best in his students. Awesome job Sean!

And finally...our newcomer Stephanie Jarvis from LMS is well-versed in all things ESL. No one would ever know she has only been at LMS for 2 months! So glad you joined us Stephanie.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED IN CLASS THE OTHER DAY...

"I'm a professor at University of Wisconsin, and St. Patrick's Day is a tough one if you're a health teacher amongst dozens of Irish college students. One St. Patty's day, a student came in dressed in a full leprechaun suit, complete with a big papier-mâché head that became too heavy for him to hold up after he fell asleep in his chair. He fell to the side and rolled down the aisle."
– Ann Garvin, Ph.D., author and professor of I Like You Just Fine When You're Not Around.