STAY FOCUSED BEGINNING TEACHERS

REMEMBER WHY YOU BECAME A TEACHER

As the days and weeks pass by and you try to navigate the new normal, it’s important to stay focused on why you chose this profession in the first place. I have become so inspired by the many emails that have filled my mailbox during this pandemic. Teachers are doing so many creative activities and lessons for their students, the community and each other. As the LCS community we have suffered so much loss these past 2 months: loss of class time with our students, loss of so many traditional celebrations for our students, loss of time collaborating with our colleagues, and sadly, recently, the loss of Holly Hinson, our assistant principal from LSHS. And while we all feel this pain, this loss, we continue to carry on, in the pursuit of educating our students. We have not lost our way.

As the HR Assistant one of my responsibilities is to enter continuing education credits. I am overwhelmed by the amount of professional development so many LCS teachers are engaged in during this most challenging time. It will take me all summer to catch up entering the CEU’s. It’s just like teachers to never take a day off, to keep striving to learn more, know more, and be better at what they do. I am so impressed.

So as this is my last newsletter of the school year, I ask you all to remain focused on why you chose this profession, why you chose to teach, why you chose the Lexington City School District. Continue honing your craft and take advantage of professional development, but take time for you as well. We continue to heal and adapt to this new world we live in. Stay safe and stay strong LCS Beginning Teachers and Mentors.

Carolyn Johnson

Above is Alice Hamilton from SWE with her class and below is Elizabeth O’Connell from LMS with her students.
For one of our weekly contests, we asked you to send in ideas on how to say goodbye to your students remotely. We did not receive any entries…wawawaaaaa….. We do realize that you are busy juggling home, remote teaching, and packing up your classroom. Nevertheless, the one quality that successful teachers share is their ability to cultivate positive relationships with their students.

I remember the last day of school before summer break when I was teaching. The students lingering in the hallways or stopping in to say goodbye were always my most challenging students. I would laugh and say, "You complained all year about school and now you're not leaving." It took me a few years to realize, those challenging students had no place to go where they felt as safe and loved as our school or my classroom. They knew that school was a place where adults cared for them and they appreciated the structure and consistent expectations.

During my last few years as a high school teacher, I had some of the toughest kids in the building. Many would come back and see me in the fall or email me to say they were doing well and to thank me. I never received that feedback from my "easy" students. I only heard from the ones that would leave me exhausted at the end of the day. I was exhausted because building relationships, being consistent with discipline, showing you care even when you just want to scream and throw them out of the classroom, is exhausting! In the end though, it is vital to our success as teachers and our children's success as students. It builds our reputation in the building. And it gets easier. Remember that, as you craft your message to your students. They are all listening.

Read the following article, "How to Reinforce the Teacher-Student Relationship, Even When You're Apart", by Angela Duckworth. I also encourage you to click on the link to Rita Pierson's TED TALK. It's worth the time, very inspirational.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

New Process for Submitting Professional Development...
You can send hard copy PD certificates to the Central Office to my attention, Carolyn Johnson. However, given our current situation, you may also scan, or download and forward certificates to the following email address:
renewalcredits@lexcs.org

Access to Professional Development Opportunities

Check out these links to professional development opportunities this summer and beyond...

NCCAT-North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching
NCVPS-North Carolina Virtual Public School

Finally, here is the latest newsletter for Beginning Teachers from the 2019 Charter School TOY, Douglas Price. He has some great advice on the importance of "grace" during these most challenging times. There are also some useful links to PD from the state.
CONGRATULATIONS TO BEGINNING TEACHERS IN THEIR FINAL YEAR! ON BEHALF OF THE BTSP PROGRAM AND YOUR PRINCIPALS, WE WISH YOU A LONG, SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN EDUCATION.

From Principal Curry

Thank you, Garland Beamer, for being such a team player. You have been a blessing to growing the English Team and making our new staff members feel right at home.

Lisa Hathaway, thanks for your passion in bringing teams together. You spend countless hours carrying the burdens of others and putting yourself on the back burner.

Mr. Terrance Wardlow, you truly understand what it means to educate the whole child. You have taken children who others may have counted out, and made thoughtful young men and women out of them. You authentically care. Your calling is countless and Lexington is blessed to have you on its team.

From Principal Zaeem:

Reyna Hinson has flourished as a 7th grade math teacher in her first three years of teaching. She has led the way for the implementation of the blended classroom model at our school. Mrs. Hinson has developed into an innovative leader and will make a great mentor to a beginning teacher when the opportunity arises.

Robin Leftwich's kind-hearted and loving personality has inspired the students at LMS to demonstrate their point of view through visual arts. During her tenure at LMS, Ms. Leftwich has also tapped into our students' musical talents, with the implementation of West African Drumming being offered as a result of her leadership.

Tracy Owens is a natural when it comes to providing a safe and nurturing environment to her students. The love that she shows for the students at LMS translates into an enriching, prosperous classroom setting where everyone can succeed.

Joann Thomas has demonstrated leadership in the classroom and in 8th Grade Science that exceeds her years of experience. She has been a pillar for the implementation of the STEAM theme at LMS. She imposes her innovative ways of thinking into our school’s environment, always willing to do "Whatever it takes" to make things work.

From Principal Britt:

Dr. Collins has done well this year! She has been committed to her students and families. She has a sincere heart for the well-being of others.

Ms. Foster has developed into a true teacher leader. She has participated on several school and district committees. She is a true advocate for kids and her community.

Mrs. McIntosh has shown solid growth as a classroom teacher. She is persistent, focused, and dedicated to her kids, families, and community. She also has shown great leadership throughout her BT years.

From Principal Harry-Clark

Jayme Himes has had the opportunity to grow in the area of Kindergarten and Pre-K. Ms. Himes, has gifted her students with being that educator who always seeks more knowledge for the benefit for growth.

Patty Louia is an educator that always raises the bar. Ms. Louia is that teacher who is a natural mentor for all teachers. She truly has a heart of gold, her actions speak her truth.

Rebecca Vandyke has a kind spirit that is visible prior to her speaking which is confirmation of her kind spirit. Her kind spirit pulls students in and naturally builds a positive relationship that allows her students to thrive.

Victoria Norman never ceases to stop her desire to add one more step to challenge. Ms. Norman has the tenacity and grit needed to continue her growth as an educator.

From Principal Callicutt

Phillip Haworth is full of creativity, humor and wisdom. He constantly makes us laugh and you never know what will pop up on his Facebook! He loves his students and does what it takes to help them grow. Mr. Haworth's patience, intelligence, and go with the flow attitude make him an asset at Charles England.

Leia Stone is a quiet, kind leader! She is amazing in and out of the classroom. Mrs. Stone's students take on her personality in the classroom. Her classroom is full of quiet, yet engaged, respectful, kind learners. She differentiates instruction for every student helping them be successful. Mrs. Stone makes Charles England a better place!
Tracy Owens from LMS would like to thank Mr. Fairall for all his support throughout these past three years.

She would also like to thank..."My mentor, Stacy Ellison, was supportive and encouraging. She listened to me when I needed to talk, gave great advice and provided excellent teaching techniques and tips. It was a blessing to have such a seasoned and beloved educator (her students respect and adore her) as my mentor.

Leia Stone would like to thank Mrs. Haworth. "Thank you for always keeping your door open for me to come in and talk when I needed to. I really appreciate all that you have helped me with over the past three years. I couldn't have asked for a better mentor!

Joann Thomas thanks Ms. Thornhill: "Thank you so much for being a wonderful source of help for the past two years! It was so comforting to know that someone was there for me if I needed anything. I enjoyed visiting your classroom and getting inspiration for new and interactive lessons for my own students. You are a great teacher and a wonderful person. Thank you!

Rebecca Vandyke says, "Being new to North Carolina and not knowing anyone, my mentor Denée Hairston is more than a mentor to me. Denée has been an encouragement and a prime role model for me and others, always going above and beyond to help others. These three years would not have been a success without her. I just want to say thank you for being a mentor, friend, and chosen family.

Lisa Hathaway would like to thank Rhonda Blackwell for her constant support, advice, friendship and her leadership during my first 3 years of teaching. She has been so steady with all the changes and has really taught me so much about the EC world. Beyond thankful for her and the guidance she has given. She's a blessing to all she meets.

Courtney Foster Thanks Ms. Sizemore.: Ms. Sizemore came to my rescue this year when my mentor of 2 years had to move away. I am so thankful for everything she has done for me. I can truly say she is so much more than a mentor, she is a true friend that I am so blessed to have in my life!

Robin Leftwich thanks her mentor, Sharyl Beck. "She has gone above and beyond helping me and being a support during my 1st three years. She was constantly in touch and gave feedback and advice whenever I was in need. My only regret is the 3 years are up and I don't get to keep her as my mentor!!!

Victoria Norman would like to thank Rebekkah Macon and Norma Sirkison and who would help her as much as possible.

Yvonnia McIntosh would like to say to her mentor Sarah Everts ...."To my dearest teacher mentor, thank you for your patience and caring and for your kind words and sharing. Thank you!!

Garland Beamer would like to thank Rachel Horttor and Casey Hudgins who have both served as my mentor for my first three years. They have always been there for me when I have had questions or needed guidance in a time of need or uncertainty.

and...A great big Thank You from Phil Haworth to Pattie Pollard and Rebecca Crago! Not only have they have both been extremely helpful, but they have also patiently endured my endless barrage of questions! I couldn't have asked for better colleagues to have as mentors!
AND FINALLY....HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY AND JULY BABIES!

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO LISA HATHAWAY FROM LSHS. HER BIRTHDAY WAS ON APRIL 29TH.

SEAN DAVIS FROM PICKETT CELEBRATES HIS BIRTHDAY ON MAY 26TH.
ANNA BOYLE FROM LSHS CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY ON JULY 3RD.
GARLAND BEAMER, ALSO FROM LSHS, CELEBRATES HIS BIRTHDAY ON JULY 20TH.
AND FINALLY...HAPPY BIRTHDAY ON JULY 25TH TO JASMINE PARRISH FROM SOUTH LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY.
AND HAPPY NEW GRANDBABY TO PATTY LOUIA FROM SOUTH LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY.

ON BEHALF OF THE BEGINNING TEACHER SUPPORT PROGRAM, WE HOPE YOU ARE ABLE TO CELEBRATE WITH THOSE YOU LOVE.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER LCS BEGINNING TEACHERS AND MENTORS.

YOU DESERVE IT!