Tips for Student Teachers - 2009
From College of Education Alumni

• If you teach middle school, have a seating chart ready before students get there.
• Always have more work prepared for your students than they can finish. Down time equals naughty time.
• Be honest with your students about what you know and what you don’t. Trying to answer questions you don’t know leads to misconceptions that may confuse them for years beyond your class.
• Don’t try to do everything the first year! Focus on a few things that you will want to do well.
• If you substitute, always carry a bag of fill in, high interest activities.
• Remember to smile at your kids and the adults.
• Be organized in your lessons. Take the time to put things where you can find them. It is time well spent.
• Remember how your objective and standards tie together.
• Listen to parent concerns and just be patient while they talk. Don’t become defensive and react too soon. Good ears equal good parent-teacher relationships.
• You can never go over the basic class expectations with your kids too much. Practice does not make perfect, but they will be close!
• Make positive phone calls to parents at the beginning of the year before calling regarding problems.
• Observe other teachers!
• Have your principal observe you.
• Attend school activities, meetings, and functions. Attend your students’ sports games.
• Be open-minded.
• Realize your first year is a “throw away” year. You cannot do it all and the students will be trying to figure you out.
• Meet other teachers. Socialize outside of your field. You will end up with great friends.
• Teaching is the best job in the world.
• Tell stories about your personal experiences when you were your students’ age. Listen to their stories.
• Be flexible.
• Use love and logic.
• Keep chocolate in your closet.
• Do your time. The more actual classroom teaching you do, the better you will be.
• Set a time to leave every day, no matter what. Take time for yourself.
• Exercise. Drink lots of water to stay healthy.
• Don’t try to plan your entire year at once. If you aren’t given a curriculum calendar by your administrator, just divide general units timing and plan to adjust as you go along.
• Be a STAR: Stop, Think, Act, Review.
• Meander through the classroom.
• Let kids teach. They love it and the others will listen and all learn. (Of course, choose your teacher.)
• Celebrate any success including yours.
• Start the year with clear expectations and be strict. As the year progresses, you can slowly relax. The kids will respect and like you more.
• Make all files for students as soon as you get your class list. If your class changes it won’t change that much.
• Set up files for subjects and put everything pertaining to that subject there. Make folders for each unity. Next year, you can pull it out and remind yourself of all your great ideas. Make notes on what you want to do differently next time.
• Smile! Be funny! Be crazy! Be real. Be sincere. Kids know real.
• Find something likeable about every kid.
• Keep your promises to other teachers and staff.
• Go to every job fair and do as much interviewing as you can. Practice, practice, practice!