

Volume 1, Issue 7

March 2016

Important Dates

3/25 — Holiday

3/28 — 3/30 Annual
Leave Days

3/31 & 4/1 — Teacher
Workdays

Worst Day Ever?

By Chanie Gorkin

Today was the absolute
worst day ever
And don't try to convince
me that
There's something good in
every day
Because, when you take a
closer look,
This world is a pretty evil
place.
Even if
Some goodness does shine
through once in a while
Satisfaction and happiness
don't last.
And it's not true that
It's all in the mind and
heart
Because
True happiness can be
attained
Only if one's surroundings
are good
It's not true that good ex-
ists
I'm sure you can agree
that
The reality
Creates
My attitude
It's all beyond my control
And you'll never in a mil-
lion years hear me say
Today was a very good
day.

*(Now read it from bottom to top,
the other way, and see what I
really feel about my day!)*

Rockingham County Schools

CTE News



Six Ideas to Keep Students Engaged

1. **Hold students accountable with assessments and attendance policies linked to the final grade:** Student work for grades! Assign work that allows student to earn points, and, if possible, find ways to link attendance and participation to the grade.
2. **Make explanations clear, and don't talk too fast:** Students respond better when they understand. Speak clearly and slowly enough that students can process your comments and take notes.
3. **Employ backward design to make course work relevant:** What learning outcomes you want students to achieve? Let those goals help you decide on your teaching methods and assessment practices. Avoid mismatches in design, such as choosing increased critical-thinking abilities as a learning outcome but choosing to teach by lecture only and giving only multiple-choice tests.
4. **Use humor to your advantage:** When consider the use of humor and the avoidance of a monotone presentation style as two of the top behaviors that capture their interest. Try to make your classes lively and entertaining, and use good presentation practices to avoid a monotone delivery.
5. **Use multiple teaching methods in most classes when possible:** Lecture has its place in a class, but students respond best when you mix it up a bit, using discussion, group work, hands-on activities, case studies, and multimedia elements. The bonus: students enrolled in a class that is not primarily lecture tend to text less!

Relate learning to students' real lives: Why will I ever need to know this? Millennial learners, in particular, report a need to understand how learning will link to their real lives. Create assignments that are clearly linked to current or future life activities.

Source: <http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-and-learning/six-tips-for-keeping-students-engaged/>



A BIG No, no.....!

Please, do not post classroom bank items to the Internet without password protection.

We are all now required to sign a form indicating that we will not engage in this practice.

Monetary consequences can be quite expensive if DPI were to press charges.

And yes, we do still have incidences occurring! Craven County teachers have reported finding RCS teacher posts twice this year.

Please be aware and correct



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Irene Courts, 3/2
Laura Mignone, 3/7
Jennifer Flynt, 3/10
Chuck Jones, 3/12
Rhonda Holland, 3/21
Lisa Mills, 3/31

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Todd Jones, 4/7
Kathy Miller, 4/8
Thomas Horton, 4/13
John Brown, 4/29

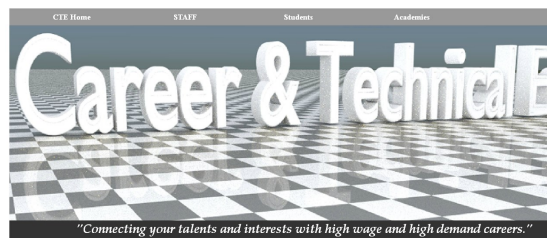
From your IMC...

How Do You Market Your Program/Courses?

Registration for the 2016-17 school year has almost come and gone. Will you have enough students register for your classes for next year so that you teach the courses you prefer? Will your courses attract students who are interested and engaged, or will your rosters be filled with students that "needed a class?" Effectively promoting our CTE programs leads to increased enrollment, students who are excited about learning, and happier teachers!

Here are some promotional strategies that some of us are already using:

- Promote your slogans: John Butler and Max Dooley have "Think. Create. Build. Amaze." as their slogan for Tech Ed. Do you have a slogan?
- Promote your credentials – students need more than "street creds" to succeed in life. Post names of students receiving your credentials.
- Promote the fact that CTE courses teach self sufficiency and transferrable life skills
- Promote relevancy – math takes on a completely different connotation and proves its value when integrated into real world situations that CTE classes provide. (For instance, did you know that "thinly sliced apple" in a recipe means a slice that equals 1/32 of an apple? Fractions in the kitchen? ...and just "how" do you get 1/32 of an apple? Critical thinking and problem solving in the kitchen? Do your students know? Thank you Sarah Stewart at WRMS for this math lesson in an FACS classroom.)
- Plan to attend Summer Conference to re-energize YOU and to "borrow" ideas from other teachers
- Check your program area Moodle and see what other teachers are doing in their classes. Moodle is another resource for "borrowing" ideas
- Post your Ratings – aren't you attracted to restaurants with the best ratings? The program area meetings that Dr. Scott recently conducted should have given you a renewed confidence that you are doing an great job of getting the material across to your students. Spread the word and let students in your classes and school know how your courses **rate**
- Post events on the website. Market your hands-on activities by sending pictures of classroom activities, field trips, club events, etc. to Dr. Scott for publication to our CTE webpage at www.rockcte.org. Do you visit the website? ...do your students?
- "Real-world experiences" and "making it relevant" were common themes in every one of the program area meetings. Work with your CDC to assist in updating or developing the promotional materials for CTE in your building. Highlight those real-world, relevant experiences that students will have in your classroom.



When was your last visit to our page?
www.rockcte.org