

Mentor Minutes

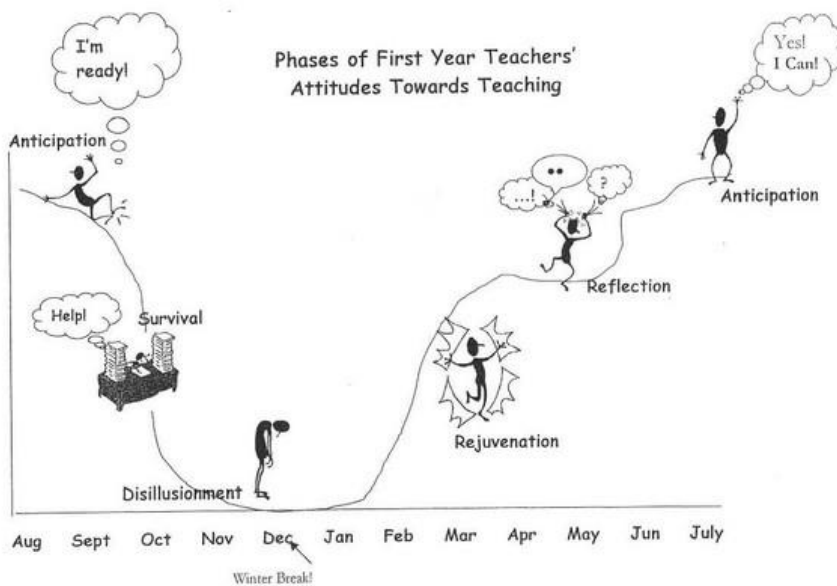
January 2020

The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.

C. S. Lewis

**Welcome back! I hope everyone
had a wonderful, restful break!**

Welcome to the Rejuvenation Phase!



The rejuvenation phase is characterized by a slow rise in the new teacher's attitude toward teaching. It generally begins in January. Having a winter break makes a tremendous difference for new teachers. It allows them to resume a normal lifestyle, with plenty of rest, food, exercise, and time for family and friends. This vacation is the first opportunity that new teachers have for organizing materials and planning curriculum. It is a time for them to sort through materials that have accumulated and to prepare new ones. This breath of fresh air gives novice teachers a broader perspective with renewed hope!



Friendly Reminders:

Progress reports should be sent home with report cards. Also, don't forget to lock them in Acceliplan.

Be Data Driven:

***BIG Database** - This district database houses information that can assist with making IEP decisions, explaining progress to parents, and writing IEPs. In order to access BIG, go to the Assessment Department on the district website and then under "Related Links," click "Request BIG Access."

***AimswbPlus** - For those of you that have aimswbPlus up and running: Do you have a system for assessing students on a regular basis? Now is a great time to check student progress and implement a schedule for testing regularly.

***Infinite Campus** - Did you know you can access assessment data in Infinite Campus? Simply bring up a student's profile and click on the "Assessment" tab to access MAP, SBAC, WIDA, and NAA scores.

Refresh, Review, and Reinforce

After break is a great time to review classroom expectations and review routines! This may help to re-orient students and get them back into "learning mode"! Take some time this week to go over your expectations and routines, and don't forget to praise/reinforce students when you see them complying!

Teachers need schedules too!

Just as your student benefit from daily routines, you may also benefit from planning and consistent routines! There is nothing wrong with staying late at work sometimes. Taking an extra hour or two once a week can make a huge difference with getting caught up on long-term work, such as IEP data and/or lesson planning. However, you shouldn't stay late every day of the week. If you find that it's difficult for you to leave on time during part of the week without a schedule, designate days that you will and will not stay late. Prioritize what you want to get done during your extra time at work and focus solely on those tasks so you can maximize your effectiveness.

Check it out:

Promethean Planet: www.prometheanplanet.com

If you are lucky enough to have a Promethean Board- This website contains free templates, activities, and lessons for you to use (sign up with your school email!).

Middle School Math Lessons: <http://www.sharemylesson.com/middle-school-math-teaching-resources/> This website is full of lessons that are shared by other math teachers.