

# Teaching is the single most important human endeavor.

<b>General Advice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Building relationships and connecting with students is infinitely more important</b> than any content a teacher possesses or instructional strategy a teacher employs.</li> <li>• <b>Positive parent phone calls</b> help teachers recruit the help of parents and guardians to support instruction and teacher efforts from home. They also make parent teacher conferences much more enjoyable.</li> <li>• Find a <b>collection of like-minded colleagues with similar passion and conviction</b>. Feel comfortable removing your armor in front of these colleagues. Everyone has tough days – find a support system with which to share tough days and celebrations.</li> <li>• We must prepare students for the world they will inherit. They will face problems, dilemmas, and bioethical issues we cannot even conceive. <b>Solving problems with answers in the back of a textbook will not prepare them for this world</b>. Open-ended, low-entry, high ceiling tasks are paramount for developing robust problem solving strategies and critical thinking skills.</li> <li>• <b>Read a scholarly article every night for at least ten years. You will excel.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Professional Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth is uncomfortable, sometimes painful, and also inevitable. Growth will occur but professional growth should be directional and purposeful. Always strive to make mistakes in a good direction.</li> <li>• Cross observation is low-cost and the single most powerful tool in a teacher’s professional development toolkit. Get into the classrooms of others with regularity.</li> <li>• Keep reflective notes daily. A lesson we put away today may not see the light of day for another 364 days. I sometimes struggle to remember yesterday let alone a year ago. Reflective notes help a teacher’s instruction improve over time.</li> </ul>	
<b>Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be mindful about implementing technology. Fancy technology sometimes masks poor pedagogy.</li> <li>• Become comfortable with taking risks. Learning and implementing new technology can be time consumptive and labor intensive but can lead to great gains in inefficiency and scope.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperative assessment is a strategy I employ in all my classes. Group students in groups of 3-5. Spend a set time period (ours is 20-35 minutes) completing the task. Then 3-7 minutes for groups to interact with one another. Have an alphabetic list and number the students. Then use this numeric list to randomly select a student to go to the front of the room and present. The audience (“the gallery”) can formally protest, provide feedback and coaching, etc. as the person presents. What goes on the board will be the basis for the grade for the entire class. Works like a charm – keeps all accountable for knowing procedures and how to explain thinking. Also works well for attendance issues.</li> <li>• Ken O’Connor’s book <i>How to Grade for Learning</i> changed my practice. I accept all late work for full credit, allow students multiple attempts at both formative and summative assessments, and I make a professional judgment at the end of the semester based on both quantitative and qualitative evidence. Letting the computer crunch numbers does not free the professional educator from the obligation to assess students.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Must Use Websites</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.teachingchannel.org">www.teachingchannel.org</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.101qs.com">www.101qs.com</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dropbox.com">www.dropbox.com</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.wordpress.com">www.wordpress.com</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.wolframalpha.com">www.wolframalpha.com</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.geogebra.org">www.geogebra.org</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.desmos.com">www.desmos.com</a></p> <p><a href="http://youcubed.stanford.edu/">http://youcubed.stanford.edu/</a></p>	<p><b>Must Read Books</b></p> <p><i>Mindset: The New Psychology of Success (Dweck)</i></p> <p><i>Teach Like Your Hair is on Fire (Esquith)</i></p> <p><i>Outliers: The Story of Success (Gladwell)</i></p> <p><i>The Last Lecture (Pausch)</i></p>	<p><b>Must Watch TED Talks</b></p> <p>Ken Robinson, How Schools Kill Creativity</p> <p>Simon Sinek, Why Good Leaders Make You Feel Safe</p> <p>Simon Sinek, How Great Leaders Inspire Action</p> <p>Amy Cuddy, Your Body Language Shapes Who You Are</p> <p>Jill Bolte Taylor, My Stroke of Insight</p> <p>Steven Strogatz, The Science of Sync</p> <p>Hannah Fry, The Mathematics of Love</p> <p>Carol Dweck, The Power of Believing You Can Improve</p>



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