

Beginning Teacher Newsletter

“You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.”
~Zig Ziglar

The CCS Mentor Team

“Together Everyone Achieves More”

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We're rooting for you!

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“I give the same advice to all new teachers.
Pretend you know what you are doing.”

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WELCOME to Craven County!

Michael Alexander, Erica Allen, Ashley Andersen, Kaley Banks, Katherine Barnes, April Baxter, Victoria Bennett, Darbi Billington, Kathryn Black, Katherine Bland, Erica Bostian, Kristin Brady, Stacey Brooks, Ashley Brown, Leeanna Bunch, Kayla Castro, De’Shona Cherry, Petra Chomicz, Nadia Christensen, Tyler Clark, Scarlett College, Kim Coltrain, Brittney Comstock, Tiffany Corey, Emily Dale, Jessica Daniels, Nicki Daniels, Camesa Dawson, Heidi DeSoto, Dustin Elder, Ashley Etheredge, Nataleigh Fabian, Sara Farley, Kelly Forbis, Angela Frazier, Kristen Gardner, Meredith Gaskill, Molly Gomberg, Sherri Hargett-Coleby, Matthew Hische, Carrie Hogeback, Kimberly Hudock, Jaime Jones, Lydia Kidwell, Kara Kinney, Emily Koonce, David Lee, Shannon Lee, Amy Lewis, Monica Martinez, Joyce Maxwell, Melanie Moore, Mallory Owen, Catherine Petersen, Joseph Quadrino, Mallory Ramsey, Sharon Richardson, Megan Rickard, Holly Roberts, Jessica Rogers, Shanetta Sangster, Reba Schmidt, Amy Shackelford, Meredith Shaw, Amber Sheffield, Rebecca Shoaff, Adrienne Stahl, Lorrie Stutzman, Ben Thomas, Brittany Thomas-Powell, Jason Thomas, Lindsay Thomas, Kyle Warmack, Briton Wertz, Aimee Wesson & Tabitha Woodlief

Coming Soon...

- Fast Lane Meeting on Sept 19th @ 3:45
- BT Store Opening on the Oct 14th “O” day
- District Lead Mentor page from the CCS website with links and resources for all teachers



New to the New Bern area?

Check out <http://www.visitnewbern.com/>
for a calendar of events, shopping & dining list and
links to other communities in Craven County.

Classroom Behavior? There's an App for That!

Stick Pick



Pick a student at random just by giving your device a shake or tapping the screen -- but that's just the beginning. Stick Pick suggests question starters for learners at different levels and also records how well students respond during classroom discussions. If a student is consistently scoring near the top or bottom, simply change the level so students aren't bored or frustrated. \$2.99

Too Noisy



This app pairs a colorful and fun graphic with a digital noise meter to let teachers - and students - know when the noise level has exceeded acceptable levels. Teachers set the "appropriate" noise level and then the *Too Noisy* graphics will provide a reading which will ring out when your students are in the red zone.

TeacherKit



This is a great app for secondary teachers because it allows you to organize multiple classrooms and students. *Teacher Kit* offers multiple features such as seating charts, attendance records, behavior tracking, a gradebook, and more.

“Observation Comprehension” STANDARDS 1:d 2:a, c & e 4:f & g

Top 10 Tips for Classroom Discipline and Management

Classroom discipline and management causes the most fear and consternation in new teachers. However, this is a skill that is not only learned but practiced daily. Here are ten tips that can lead to successful classroom management and greater discipline in schools.

- 1. It's Easier to Get Easier** Many teachers make the mistake of starting the school year with a poor discipline plan. Students quickly assess the situation in each class and realize what they will be allowed to get away with. Once you set a precedent of allowing a lot of disruptions, it can be very hard to start better classroom management and discipline techniques. However, it is never tough to get easier as the year goes on.
- 2. Fairness is Key** Students have a distinct sense of what is and what is not fair. You must act fairly for all students if you expect to be respected. If you do not treat all students equitably, you will be labeled as unfair.
- 3. Deal with Disruptions with as Little Interruption as Possible** When you have classroom disruptions, it is imperative that you deal with them immediately and with as little interruption of your class momentum as possible. If students are talking amongst themselves and you are having a classroom discussion, ask one of them a question to try to get them back on track.
- 4. Avoid Confrontations in Front of Students** Whenever there is a confrontation in class there is a winner and a loser. Obviously as the teacher, you need to keep order and discipline in your class. However, it is much better to deal with discipline issues privately than cause a student to 'lose face' in front of their friends. It is not a good idea to make an example out of a disciplinary issue.
- 5. Stop Disruptions with a Little Humor** Sometimes all it takes is for everyone to have a good laugh to get things back on track in a classroom. Many times, however, teachers confuse good humor with sarcasm. While humor can quickly diffuse a situation, sarcasm may harm your relationship with the students involved.
- 6. Keep High Expectations in Class** Expect that your students will behave, not that they will disrupt. Reinforce this with the way you speak to your students. When you begin the day, tell your students your expectations.
- 7. Over Plan** Free time is something teachers should avoid. By allowing students time just to talk each day, you are setting a precedent about how you view academics and your subject. To avoid this, over plan. Write additional activities into your lesson plans just in case your main lesson runs short. When you have too much to cover, you'll never run out of lessons and you will avoid free time.
- 8. Be Consistent** One of the worst things you can do as a teacher is to not enforce your rules consistently. If one day you ignore misbehaviors and the next day you jump on someone for the smallest infraction, your students will quickly lose respect for you. Your students have the right to expect you to basically be the same every day.
- 9. Make Rules Understandable** You need to be selective in your class rules (no one can follow 180 rules consistently). You also need to make them clear. Students should understand what is and what is not acceptable. Further, you should make sure that the consequences for breaking your rules are also clear and known beforehand.
- 10. Start Fresh Everyday** This tip does not mean that you discount all previous infractions, i.e. if they have three tardies then today means four. However, it does mean that you should start teaching your class each day with the expectation that students will behave.

Adapted from [Melissa Kelly](#), About.com Guide

