

Union Strong!

F.O.N.T.

Focus on New Teachers

A Publication of the
Farmingdale Federation of Teachers

**Happy
New Year!**

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THINGS A NEW TEACHER SHOULD KNOW

1. Put your desk in the front of the room.
2. If you're overwhelmed by paperwork, ask seasoned teachers what's most important and what can be ignored, even temporarily.
3. Don't take student moaning and groaning about how boring your lesson is personally. They've been trained by TV and social media to think that everything about school is negative.
4. Keep all thank you notes or positive correspondence from parents. You never know when that will come in handy.
5. This too shall pass. Staff development topics and best practice techniques change every few years.
6. Give shorter assignments so that you can truly grade papers and make helpful comments. Students need practice assignments, not marathons.
7. Provide written as well as oral directions to an assignment.
8. Read aloud in class and assign reading for homework. Many students read very little, so incorporate it as much as possible.
9. "Don't worry about the smart kids" is a myth. Worry about all of them. Try not to short-change anyone.
10. The last five minutes of class should be a summary of today's lesson and a reminder about the homework for that night. Try to incorporate some type of closing activity that addresses the target of your lesson.
11. Decorate your room with student work, not "inspirational" posters. No matter the age, students are proud to see their work on display.
12. If a student submits work that is illegible, that didn't follow directions, or is incomplete, don't grade it. Give it back and tell him that he has two days to fix it. Don't remind him-let it be "on him". If the work is not re-submitted, it's a zero grade.
13. Make students accountable. Learning entails growth and change, which demands sweat. Give pop quizzes and make them re-do poor assignments.
14. Keep a file of IEP and 504 accommodations. Keep in compliance.
15. If a 17 year old boy enters your class, do not sit him next to a 14 year old girl. Her father will thank you.
16. Every subject requires some memorization. Make them memorize poems, formulas, names and dates. It is an underrated skill, but it can prove to be a valuable one.
17. A quick turn-around on returning graded work is a must. Grade only every other question, shorten your assignments, but be sure to give work back within two weeks of the assignment. After that, it becomes meaningless for them because they've forgotten about it.
18. Keep blank greeting cards in your desk to send students a note when they need cheering up or encouragement.
19. Lesson plans are best written a short time in advance. Do not plan a month ahead because you cannot account for unforeseen variables that will derail your best intentions.
20. Never let students be in your classroom when you are not there. Lock your door when you leave.

DID YOU KNOW?

- You can contact the NYSUT Member benefits this year to help with your tax preparation.
- Call them at 1(800)-626-8101 or email them at benefits@nysutmail.org
- The FFT website can be accessed at www.farmingdaleteachers.org

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*In solidarity, there is strength.
What we cannot achieve alone,
we can achieve together!*

We're on the web:
[http://
www.farmingdaleteachers.org](http://www.farmingdaleteachers.org)

Things a New Teacher Should Know *continued*

21. Assign fewer projects, but more writing. Students need more practice at writing and projects do not always help students to learn
22. Gain a reputation as a teacher that will not tolerate cell phones or electronic devices.
23. Keep a journal of funny moments from class, memories of students that gained something from you, photos of themselves that they give you, and any cards or letters from them. It will help you when you want to tear your hair out.
24. Try to keep a balance between approachable and professional behavior. It is best to be more professional. Do not give a student anything that can be used against you. After your first few angry parents, you will learn to be cautious.
25. Try not to take work home with you. You need a break from school in order to keep your sanity. If you are constantly bogged down by papers that need to be graded on weekends and after school hours, you are missing out on other enjoyable aspects of your life.

NYSUT Early Career Member Conference

The NYSUT Nassau Regional Office is sponsoring a conference for new members on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at the Huntington Hilton from 8:30 am to 3:45 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served and a cocktail reception will follow.

The conference will focus on providing early career members with the opportunity to discuss their needs and interests with others, outline the benefits of union membership, and provide information regarding their professional, financial and personal well-being.

Participants will have the opportunity to pick from a menu of 45-minute mini-workshops covering a wide range of subjects. These workshops include:

- Moderated discussion focusing on needs of early career members
- Career-Threatening Perils of Misusing Social Media
- Tenure-What It Does...What It Doesn't Do
- How NYSUT's Member Benefits Program Can Save Members Lots of Money
- Navigating the Increasingly Complex Certification Maze
- NYSUT's Education and Learning Trust-A Valuable Professional Resource
- What Rights and Benefits Do You Acquire From Union Membership
- There's Lots You Need To Know NOW About the Teachers' Retirement System
- What You Need to Know About APPR and Teacher Evaluations

Registration is limited to ten people per local. Please call the FFT Office at (631) 249-0773 if you wish to attend the conference. The deadline for registration is January 26, 2018.

Linda McCoskey

Editor and FFT Secretary