

I Never Learned THAT in College!

Surviving and Thriving in Your First Year of Teaching

So you've got your first job! Now what? Come learn about the "do's" and "do not's" that will help you not only survive your first year, but thrive and begin your new, exciting career on the right foot. The presenter will share personal experiences from nearly two decades of teaching elementary, middle school, and high school strings in four different states along with ideas and suggestions from experts in the field.

A. Introduction

- Refining your philosophy
- Your career has already started... creating a positive first impression.
- Everyone makes mistakes, but how you handle them makes the difference. Just don't make the same mistake twice!

B. Student Teaching

- Personal Space
- Responsibility: Too much? Too little?
- Be proactive! Don't wait to be told.
- Communication: Ask questions!
- Structure: Change or keep the same?
- Your own teaching style - how can you fit in?
- Be firm with students, yet kind
- Observe other teachers
- Market yourself: Promotion, networking, etc.
- Resources: Take advantage of the situation!
- Listen and Learn: Embrace the positive and critical feedback
- *What are the impressions you want others to have of you during and after student teaching?*

C. Getting a Job!

- Student teaching experience
- Planning ahead!!
- References: Communicate
- Social media concerns
- Interviewing etiquette & questions
- Applications completed during student teaching
- Cover letter & Résumé
- Thank you cards

D. First Year & Beyond

- Make friends: secretaries, custodians, bookkeeper
- Mentor: Assigned or find one
- Classroom procedures & setting expectations: The first days are the most important
- Classroom organization determines the learning atmosphere
- Traditions: good or bad? You get to change *one* in the first year

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- Managing the daily schedule & work load
- Scheduling classes: tips and tricks
- Balance personal & professional lives
- Attend regular professional development clinics, conferences, and workshops
- Become active in professional organizations
- Staying Healthy - Sleep, eat well, exercise
- Don't compare yourself or your program to your HS experiences
- Experiment and get out of your comfort zone
- Continue to perform on your instrument
- Listen to your students (within reason)
- Regularly bring guests into your classroom
- Have fun and bring that joy to your classroom

3 C's of being a Great Colleague

- Caring
- Communicator
- Collegial

The 3 C's of Life

- Choices
- Chances
- Changes

"You must make a choice to take a chance or your life will never change."

Don't ever place limits on yourself - you never know where you will end up or what you will do!!