

The ABC's for First Year Teachers

- **A**dmit your mistakes and learn from them.
- **B**e firm, but flexible
- **C**ommunicate with parents.
- **D**evelop a homework policy and stick to it.
- **E**mpower your students; don't just lecture to them.
- **F**ind time to attend after-school events.
- **G**et to know all the teachers in your school and make friends with the cooks, custodians, aides, and secretaries.
- **H**ave the courage to try something else if what you're doing isn't working.
- **I**nstitute a clear discipline policy and enforce it consistently.
- **J**ust listen...both to what the kids are saying and to what they're not saying.
- **K**ee a journal.
- **L**earn your school's policies and procedures.
- **M**odel desired attitudes and behaviors.
- **N**on carborundum ignorami. (Don't let the imbeciles wear you down.)
- **O**verplan.
- **P**repare interesting lessons.
- **Q**uit worrying and just do your best.
- **R**emember that you teach students first, then you teach whatever academic discipline you learned.
- **S**tay alert.
- **T**ake pictures.
- **U**nderstand that the learning process involves everyone- teachers, students, colleagues, and parents- and get everyone involved.
- **V**olunteer to share projects and ideas, and don't be afraid to ask others to share their ideas with you.
- **W**ork within your limits.
- **X**pect the unexpected and plan for it!
- **Y**ell if you need support.
- **Z**ero in on your strengths, not your weaknesses. (Remember, nobody's perfect!)