18 Effective Strategies for Reaching All Students

Taken from Gail L. Thompson’s Through Ebony Eyes: What Teachers Need to Know But Are Afraid to Ask About African American Students (pgs 65-68)

1. Let students know you care.
2. Share the real you, by letting them see you as a real human being.
3. Have high expectations.
4. Keep reminding them of the big picture and why what they are doing in class is important.
5. Get to know students on a personal level.
6. Make the classroom experience relevant to the real world.
7. Use schema theory. Find out what students already know on the topic and help link prior knowledge to new knowledge.
8. Use storytelling to arouse their interest.
9. Showcase their talent.
10. Give students multiple ways to succeed academically.
11. Encourage them to synthesize.
12. Use questioning to spark discussion.
13. Encourage students to write letters to authors of books they have read.
15. Use the old and the new. Use current literature, multicultural literature and the classics.
16. Assign regular, beneficial homework.
17. Offer multiple extra-credit opportunities.
18. Assess their skills and knowledge in advance.

Books for Teachers-A Good Read!
Thompson, Gail L. Through Ebony Eyes: What Teachers Need to Know But are Afraid to Ask about African American Students
Dorn, Michael. Weakfish: Bullying Through the Eyes of a Child

If you have any ideas or lesson plans that you would like to share with other schools please pass them along to smartinez@fmhi.usf.edu

Resources

Websites (Lesson Plans, Classroom Management, etc
Education Resources
http://www.suelebeau.com/teachresources.htm

Education World
http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/

Lesson Plans for Pre-K
http://education.uncc.edu/bric/teachingprocedurestopreschool.htm

Bullying (for Kids)
http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/

Positive Interventions and Effective Strategies
http://www.pbsga.org/files/PDFPIES.pdf

Freebies-Getting Donations for Positive Reinforcement
http://www.apbs.org/freebies2003/freebies.htm

Ideas from Schools

Wheatley Elementary:
• Administration built into the master schedule 15 minutes daily for teaching social skills
• Have a schedule for the year for teaching Learning for Life lessons aligned with character traits
• Dean is taking a more proactive role by each week selecting a grade level & is going into each classroom for that specific grade to teach a social skills lesson
• PRIDE tickets are color coded. One color is for teachers to give out to other classes. When a class has 5 tickets from other teachers they get an extra recess period

Campbell Drive Middle:
• After 3 minors student receives intervention from team leader prior to going to the office on a major
• Collaborate with the Parent Academy to offer Saturday Session where kids will receive social skills training along with their parent in lieu of suspension
• Teachers can participate in a year long secret pal
• First Survivor of the Month is for ALL staff. Getting Chili’s to provide appetizers at the end of their staff meeting

Timber Creek High:
• This year they have a Positive Dean on campus. Her office is located inside the Positive Den. One cool thing she is doing every month is have a training on PBS for staff.