



Fall 2010

Watson School of Education

First Years of Teaching Newsletter

Teach with Games Dr. Jeff Ertzberger



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Teach with Games	1
Save the Date	1
Tips for Classroom Management	2
eMentor Spotlight	2

Are you interested in using video or board games in your classroom but just can't find ones that match your curriculum? Have you tried to create video or board games for your classroom only to be overwhelmed by the amount of time and effort required just to produce them? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then the "uncw.edu/Edgames" web site is for you. What's available on the "uncw.edu/EdGames" Web Site? Free games and game templates created in Microsoft

Office. Whole class games that allow your whole class to participate in the fun. Individual games that play like video games, but with your curriculum. Board game templates that allow you to make your own bingo games, and other board games in minutes. PowerPoint Timers that avoid fighting over where the minute hand was on the clock.

In the past couple of years the uncw.edu/Edgames web site has become extremely popular. The Edgames web site receives over one

thousand visits per day during the week, and in one month one popular game was downloaded over two thousand times. Who uses them? – Any teacher, the games are designed for use in K-Adult courses. So if you are interested in using games in your classroom check it out. <http://uncw.edu/Edgames>



Have you registered to be a part of the First Years of Teaching Support Program? Check us out on the web:
www.uncw.edu/ed/teach1

Save the Date: BT Professional Development Days

Once again, the First Years of Teaching Support Program is holding its annual Beginning Teacher Professional Development Days on November 30, February 17th,

and May 10th. Registration is open! The cost of attending all three workshops is \$90, and topics will include technology tools for the 21st century classroom, class-

room management strategies, leadership in the innovation age, and much, much more! Visit www.uncw.edu/ed/teach1 for more details!!



Check us out on Facebook!
UNCW First Years of Teaching Support Program

FYTSP Online Forum: One Click Away!

The FYTSP Online Forum is new in the Fall of 2010. Once you register for the FYTSP, you will have unlimited access to this great resource!

The online forum contains a list of Web 2.0 tools to help support your teaching and engage students! Tools are divided by subject area and span across grade levels!

The forum is also constantly being updated with short instructional videos containing tips on classroom management,

parent communication, utilizing Bloom's Taxonomy, and much more!

Furthermore, the site provides access to other education blogs via RSS feeds, such as Instructify and Ed.gov. You will also find links to helpful grant websites for teachers, as well as other Watson resources for beginning teachers!

The forum was built for you, the beginning teacher! Register for the FYTSP and begin accessing these resources today!

Tips for Effective Classroom Management

- Be clear and consistent about student expectations from day one
- Post classroom procedures and be prepared to teach procedures in order to develop routines
- Move through transitions briskly to avoid wasted time
- Be proactive and engage students in your lessons
- Create a sense of community where students feel safe, trusted, respected and empowered
- Talk to students one on one and avoid confrontation in front of the entire class
- Over-plan. Busy students are less likely to disrupt

eMentor Program Spotlight

The eMentor Program has connected 14 teachers across LEAs so far this semester! Teachers are sharing professional experiences, resources, new ideas and much more! Katelyn Bostic, a beginning teacher in Duplin County

Schools, writes, "It is wonderful to have someone who understands my challenges and concerns, who has been there, and who shares her thoughts and things that have worked." Her mentor, Katy O'Neill, of Brunswick County

agrees: "I like the idea of a loose relationship and being able to be a bouncing board sans paperwork[...] the eMentor relationship is about helping and being at the other end of a key-stroke."

Beginning teachers can register for eMentor support by completing the FYTSP registration form. From there, we will do our best to find an e-mentor in your subject area and at your grade level!

Communicating with Parents: 10 Tips

In her article, "Parents Are Not the Enemy: Ten Tips for Improving Parent-Teacher Communication," Kathy Hawes remembers the advice that she received as a beginning teacher: "Call early with good news before a problem comes up." While she believes this advice to be valuable, she admits that it wasn't enough

and goes on to list ten tips from her experience as a high school math teacher.

1. Don't wait to call
2. Act concerned, not angry
3. Stick to the facts
4. Listen to the parent

5. Make a realistic plan
6. Take control of the conversation
7. Document the conversation
8. Keep your supervisor informed

9. Apologize when you make a mistake
10. End on a positive note

Hopefully, these tips will help to eliminate some of the stress involved in making parent phone calls!

Mathematics Teacher. Vol. 101, No. 5 December 2007/ January 2008