

Brittney
2nd/3rd Grade
All subjects
Monroe Public Schools

Advice to New Educators:

1. Make sure that you sell yourself and everything you bring to education on your interview. Do not be modest! Explain all of the reasons why that district would be better off by hiring you and what you can bring to students and that school. Highlight all of your strengths you have built through your practicums/ student teaching experiences. Be confident and own it. The interviewers LOVE to see your passion when you answer the questions, so try to focus in on your why. Don't be afraid to show who you really are!
2. Research the school district that you are interviewing for. Have a few prepared questions based on what you learned about their school when browsing their website or social media pages. When I sit on interview panels I like when the interviewee comes in with a few questions about the district or our school specifically. It shows that you know your stuff and that you are invested in this job opportunity.
3. Another huge thing when you land your job: DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS! Seriously. Ask every question that pops into your head. I promise you will not look stupid (there are no stupid questions!) As you navigate through this new world you will encounter so many unknowns. Don't be afraid to be vulnerable. People will respect you for that.
4. Once you land your teaching job take a minute to get a pulse of the people you work with. Figuring out culture of the school is important as a new teacher. This is a question I always like to ask at an interview. Ask if they have common grade level planning times and what their overall culture is like. Not all staff members are going to go out of their way to be nice but don't take it personal! That is a mistake many of us make when we get hired.
5. Make sure you eat in the teachers lounge. Try to balance out your day so that you can have a break too. This is important so that you don't get burnt out. If the teacher's lounge isn't your thing go sit in your car or go for a drive. Change your scenery up a bit every now and then. Sometimes we can all get stuck working in our classrooms during lunch, when you have the option to not eat in your classroom then I suggest doing that.
6. Always have fun with your students. They may not remember the lesson that you taught but they will remember how much fun you had together and the memories you make along the way. Don't beat yourself up if your students are having difficulty grasping a concept – pace yourself! Take the content one day at a time and move with your students. It is okay to slow down on certain concepts. You ultimately know your class and what is best for them.
7. Don't be afraid of parents. Starting out they seem intimidating, but they are harmless. At the end of the day they just want what is best for their child. Try to hear them out and work together as a team. Having your student's family on your team makes the year

so much easier and rewarding. Families appreciate communication but set your boundaries.

8. Find the positives! Sometimes our jobs can drain us and many times people in our buildings can be a big source of that. Try to surround yourself with teachers and staff that lift you up and bring positivity to your life. If you can try to avoid the Negative Nancy's. There will be days where you feel negative and that is why we need positive people to bring us back down to Earth and help us to see things from a better view.