

Mrs. T.G.'s

STUDENT TEACHER EXPECTATIONS

1. **Be enthusiastic** as you present lessons! You **finally** made it to student teaching! SHOW that you want to be here. ☺
2. **Here at 7:45 or earlier. Leave at 3:45 or later.** I am almost always here until 4:30 and you are welcome to stay as well. Most mornings I am here by 7:15. You will need some time to prepare for the day. Give yourself at LEAST 15 minutes before the kids arrive at 8:00. Obviously there will be a *few* times when you will need to leave earlier or come later, just let me know ahead of time.
3. **Dress professionally. No jeans** except when we are *allowed* to do so ONCE in a while. No tennis shoes (or anything that resembles tennis shoes) either please. If you don't own an iron, BUY ONE! ☺
4. **Discipline!** If you see a child misbehaving, take care of it. Even if I'm teaching. Catch their eye if possible and give them your best "Teacher Look" or go walk/stand by them. Don't try to be the kids' friend, instead, think of yourself more like a PARENT. (Would YOUR mom let YOU get away with that?!) **Discipline is consistently an area of weakness for student teachers.** The kids **WILL** try to get away with everything. Be STRICT from the beginning. Check out the "Love and Logic" website if you have time: www.loveandlogic.com.
5. **Take notes and get involved when you observe.** Don't just sit back and watch, get involved in the lesson if possible. If it's a lesson where you can't be actively involved, at least jot down things you notice that are working, make note of routines and language we use, and record questions that you have. Then we can review these things at the end of the day. This will also make those long "observation" days pass more quickly. ☺ **I will expect to see a clipboard or notebook in your hands when observing.**
6. **Ask LOTS of questions.** Not only will you get answers, you also show that you're interested when you ask questions.
7. **Get to know other staff, especially the PRINCIPAL.** PLEASE stop in other classrooms and visit with lots of teachers. Professional relationships are SO important and you never how connections you make here could influence your job hunt some day. Remember the janitor (Mark), secretary (Jen), and the cooks (Joan and Deets) are KEY people in EVERY building. Finally make sure to get to know Mrs. De Graaf. Potential administrators will call and talk with HER first when they look at your application. You definitely want to make a good impression and make sure she KNOWS your name and can say good things about your general personality even if she hasn't seen you teach a lesson.
8. **Take your turn at morning recess duty.** I have duty every Day 3 and Day 6. I'll expect you to go out with me the first couple of weeks. After that, I'll expect you to go out by yourself on **Fridays** of every week. I'll be as close as a windowpane away if you have problems, but kids will see you as in charge. **GET SOME BOOTS AND SNOW PANTS IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY!** You'll stay warm and you'll be able to have some fun out there with the kids.
9. **Read!** If you are going to be teaching reading like most K-5 teachers, you absolutely NEED to be a reader yourself. Enjoy some good fiction in your free time and pour over my "teacher books" when you have time. Likewise, if you are going to be teaching writing, you should be a writer as well. Keep a journal, start a blog, hand write some personal letters instead of emailing once in a while. These are two things I'm pretty passionate about, especially the reading. ☺
10. **Expect to see me goof up!** I'm FAR from perfect, and I always have a handful of professional AND personal goals I'm consistently working on. Remember, there are **many** different ways to approach each lesson. I WILL have lessons/days where I just don't have it together, **ESPECIALLY THIS YEAR!** This will be good for you to see that even "seasoned" professionals can learn from their mistakes. ☺



5 ways to help keep your students' attention

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You are boring. No, not the person sitting next to you. *You*. I don't care if you are the "cool" teacher, but you are going to be perceived as a total bore unless you do something to make sure those kids are paying attention to you and not daydreaming or becoming distracted by their newly found way to draw their own initials. Here are some tips to help you stay in control of the classroom, based on some of my own observations along with the help of some other great articles I've found:

1. **Be Interactive** - It's one thing to ask questions aloud, hoping that one of your students will raise his hand and pipe right up to join in the conversation, but it's another to actually engage your class by making the whole group get involved at once. This is why in-class games like Jeopardy can be so much fun and ultimately more beneficial than a lecture. Find games or activities that require active participation by the whole class, rather than just wait for one or two go-getters to do all the talking. You also have to [keep pace with the entire class](#), not just the ones who already get it.
2. **Be Interesting** - History teachers, listen up. I had the hardest time paying any sort of attention in history class because of the horrifying monotony and relentless memorization of dates and events that I still am not sure really happened or not. Make a history lesson interesting by providing information about those heroes of yesteryear that aren't just the ones found in the text books. Have your students literally act out, too. Give assignments that allow them to take on the roles of historical figures and act out pieces of history. It will help them visualize the past, and put things into perspective as well.
3. **Be Funny** - As a disclaimer, I don't suggest you do anything that will get you in trouble, but having a sense of humor can really get your students to pay attention to you. When was the last time you wore KISS makeup to your Algebra class? Okay, so maybe that's taking it a bit too far, and you want your students to take you seriously, but don't forget to keep it light. I used to have a teacher who would threaten to "stand on the desk and yodel" if we'd rather listen to him do that than lecture. Luckily, he never had to, but it always got a laugh when he said he might.
4. **Be Relevant** - Your students are not dumb. They also don't live under rocks. **Use pieces of pop culture** and current events to pepper your lectures, and you might even see a head or two rise off the desk. Teaching about electromagnetism? There are some episodes of "LOST" you can check out to help support your lesson. And hey, who knows, maybe you can bring in some ideas you found on your [favorite educator's blog](#)?
5. **Be Confident** - If you don't know what you're talking about, then your students will see right through you. How can you expect your students to be passionate about anything that you could give a rat's patoot about? Be sure of what you're saying, don't keep referring to the teacher's edition, and try to [make eye contact](#) every once in a while. Your confidence and leadership abilities are paramount for establishing you as the authority. Don't be afraid to be human, but don't forget that you are in charge and they will see you falter if you let them.

These are just a few of the ways you can get your students to stay awake and engaged in the classroom. We'd love to hear about what techniques you employ when it comes to keeping yours engaged. Let us know in the comments. -JEREMY S. GRIFFIN