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BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

THE NEW

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Nazarene Educators Worldwide

To embrace, encourage, and empower through a network of Christian educators.

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! - By Marilyn J. Dominick, Public School Representative



Well, you may be thinking, at least it is a wonderful time for parents with bored children! But for those of us who are blessed to be passionate and feel called to educate, it truly is a wonderful time for us!

As we begin a brand new season of teaching and learning, let's call on our Heavenly Father to empower us to do the very best we can in our profession. Indeed, our responsibility looms large – to minister effectively to a new group of students and their families. We are charged by God to show His love to those we teach and to provide the hope that comes with the creation of opportunities that accompany a sound education. Let's lift our prayers, not only on behalf of ourselves, our students, and their families, but also for the many others who share in this ministry around the world.

It is only by the filling of the Holy Spirit that we have the energy and resourcefulness it takes to do the best job we can do. Every student starts with a 100% average! Everyone comes with a clean slate, regardless of what has happened in past school years. Try hard not to listen to negativity from last year's teacher, or even further back. Everyone deserves an objective approach! You can be the educator who provides the motivation needed for your students to do well. I challenge you to look deeply into each student's eyes, and dream dreams for him or her. You may be the only hope for a student to break out of generational poverty or negative attitudes about the importance of doing well in school. God has gifted you with great potential to do just that. Notice the strengths of each student, and emphasize those strengths. You can do this!!! Putting effort into motivation of your students makes your life as a teacher easier in the long run.

A connection with each family is important and easier than it has ever been. Creating a positive relationship with a family can often lend itself to an opening to share the love of Jesus with them. Parents want to do a good job, but many do not know how. Let's team up with families even more effectively this year!

I was so pleased this past year when my granddaughter's fourth grade teacher set up an email system to pass on information to all who wanted it (and even to some who were not excited about it). She used her camera on her phone to record special moments, and she sent good news messages and photos all year long, even to grandparents!!! Wow, what a positive difference that made. And, she consistently communicated any issues needing attention in a positive "let's do this together" kind of way with parents. Her class did very, very well because they cared what Mrs. P thought of them, and they knew she was continually communicating with their families. She hit a homerun on all fronts!

I pray that you experience a wonderful and blessed school year. If we lean on Jesus, this year will be the best ever!!!



Letter to Parents - By Lance Howard, Nazarene Educators Worldwide Vice Chair & Public School Representative

[Editor's Note: These ideas originated in an article* by Diondra Hicks, a student at Georgetown University and an intern in the Educational Department of the Office of Communications and Outreach. You may want to reproduce this article and give it to parents before school begins or at the parent/teacher conference.]

Dear Parents,

It is time for school to start again. Is your child ready to succeed? Are you ready to help? Parents who play an active role in their children's education make a huge difference in their success. When children understand that education is important to you, it becomes more important to them. Here are some things you can do to help your child prepare for the school year:

1. **Get the children to bed on time.** At least a week before school starts, train the children to go to bed at a time that will allow them to get the required number of hours of sleep for their age level. During the vacation months, children probably stayed up later and slept in later in the mornings. Now that school is starting, the bedtime schedule needs to return to the school-time schedule. Rest is essential for a healthy and productive school year. Start the transition now to earlier wake-up times and bedtimes.
2. **Communicate with teachers and the school.** Contact your child's teachers at the start of the school year. Get acquainted with them, and let them know you want to be an active partner in helping your child to learn and succeed in school. Discuss with the teacher a plan to help you keep track of your child's subjects, homework, activities, and progress. The school may already have a plan in place to do this. Consider serving on your local Parent-Teacher Organization or other parent groups that support your child's school.
3. **Provide for healthy meals.** Hungry children do not function and concentrate well. Make sure your child eats a nutritious breakfast. Good nutrition plays an important role in your child's school performance. Studies show that children who eat healthy, balanced breakfasts and lunches do better in school. Prepare nutritious meals at home. If you need extra help, find out if your family qualifies for any Child Nutrition Programs, like the National School Lunch Program.
4. **Take your child to a doctor and make sure your child has required immunizations.** It is a good idea to take your child for a physical exam and an eye exam before school starts. Most schools require up-to-date immunizations. You may be required to show paperwork that indicates your child has received all of the necessary shots and vaccines. Check to see what your state requires. Keep your own copies of your child's medical records. Be aware that eye problems can cause children to have difficulty with reading.
5. **Prepare a study area.** Set up a place in your home to do school work and homework. Remove distractions—both visual and auditory. Perhaps everyone in the family could observe a "quiet time" during the study time. Make it clear that education is a priority in your family. Show interest in what your child is studying and praise your child for completing assignments. Arrange for a place in the home where (by bedtime) homework and anything (permission slips, musical instrument, lunch bag) that needs to go to school the next day is deposited in that place. When the child is ready to leave for school, the child should check this area to see what needs to be taken to school.
6. **Read together.** Read with your child for 20 minutes every day. Your reading tells the child that reading is important to you. And, reading lets you and your child develop interest in many new and exciting topics. Make this time of reading fun and interesting.

The article, *Get in Gear for the New School Year: Back-to-School Tips for Parents*, was written by Diondra Hicks and appeared on HOMEROOM, the official blog of the U.S. Department of Education. Go to <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/08/get-in-gear-for-the-new-school-year-back-to-school-tips-for-parents/>



Dare to Discipline - By Midge Simpson, Director of Sonshine Learning Center in Greenville, SC

Every teacher struggles at some time with classroom discipline. And, just when you have a class trained for your style of discipline, the students move on to another teacher!

Some children have not experienced good discipline methods at home. Some parents are not good with discipline. Children are not born with a parenting manual, so most parents rely on what they have experienced or have seen others do. Being a good parent is difficult and requires work. Being a good disciplinarian to a child requires patience and understanding. This is true for teachers too.

Modeling

The teacher's personality plays a big part in a discipline method. A teacher needs to be a warm and friendly person. A child wants a teacher who is professional and business-like, but not too strict or stern. The teacher needs to have a positive attitude. Although it is important to adhere to the rules, a good disciplinarian knows when to be flexible. A teacher with good discipline techniques knows how to control by tone of voice. Everyone has experienced the person who thinks you should out-shout the kids. Children do not respect this. Often a teacher controls children by modifying his or her tone of voice. The softer the tone, the more likely the children will be quiet in order to hear it.

Probably the most difficult trait of a good disciplinarian is consistency. Some days it would be much easier to give in to the whiny child and let him or her have his or her way. Consistency is the one thing that all kids respect, even if it means they don't get what they want.

The teacher's actions are also important. Some students know how to raise the hairs on the back of your neck. They know how to rile your temper. Teachers must be courteous to all students. Teachers must avoid sarcasm and humor or jokes at the students' expense. Teachers must show respect to every child. Behind a belligerent face is a child who is seeking help for a need that has not been met.

Listen to the children as they speak. Maintain eye contact while a child is talking. Show by your comments you have confidence that everyone wants to cooperate and will enjoy participating in the activity. Children can disappoint you when they fail to meet your expectations. Use your energy to figure out why the child failed. Find acceptable ways to handle your own frustration, disappointment, anger, and other negative emotions.

Reinforcement

Concentrate on the good things that happen and announce these in a positive manner. Ignore as much negative, inappropriate behavior as possible. It takes experience to know what to ignore and what to address.

(Continued on page 5.)



By Janine Wilkins, Homeschool Representative

Remember The Discipleship Place, your online source of FREE Bible Study Resources, informative Webinars, and tools to train up your child (and yourself too!).

It has some excellent resources for Bible Study for home-schoolers and Christian Schools. The Bible Study for children for 2015-16 are the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. It's not too early to start your teen quizzers on the Hebrews, 1 and 2 Peter Bible Study. These materials are available from the Nazarene Publishing House, www.nph.com.

The Discipleship Place is intended to equip you, the lay person, for ministry in your local church, community, neighborhood, family, and work place. The Discipleship Place is a superb way to receive training as an adult worker, children's worker, youth worker, or Sunday School Superintendent. It is also an excellent way for you to grow as a disciple of Christ. Join the journey and sign up today!"

In 1636 when the Puritans founded Harvard University, the first college in North America, it was to prepare young men for the ministry. I wholeheartedly agree with their founding purpose and have taken it as my own in the homeschooling of my son, "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning." (from Abeka's America Land I Love)

The Discipleship Place is a means to that end and most definitely a means of grace!
<http://www.thediscipleshipplace.com>.



HOMESCHOOL

Why Is the No. 2 the No. 1? - By Beula Postlewait, Nazarene Educators Worldwide Council Member

What is going on? Is this a joke? Why is No. 2 the No. 1? Well, we are talking about pencils!

The Walmart Store has a rack that contains all of the school supply lists for the metro school districts. I think every list has on it a supply of No. 2 pencils. Even in this age of electronics, pencils are still important.

How much do you know about pencils? Here is a true or false pop quiz.

1. Most pencil cores are made of lead. T or F

False-- Most pencil cores are made of graphite mixed with a clay binder. Graphite pencils are used for both writing and drawing. The results are durable, but they can be removed with an eraser.

2. Pens and pencils operate in the same way. T or F

False--Pencils create marks by physical abrasion and leave behind a trail of solid core material that adheres to a sheet of paper or other surface. Pens disperse a trail of liquid or gel ink that stains the light color of the paper.

3. Children can use pencils safely because graphite is not poisonous. T or F

True--The graphite from a pencil is not poisonous, and graphite is harmless if consumed. However, before the 20th Century, the paint used on pencils contained a high concentration of lead. The lead from the paint could be ingested when the pencil was sucked or chewed.

4. An Italian couple named Simonio and Lyndiana Bernacotti designed in 1560 the blueprints for the modern, wood-encased carpentry pencil. T or F

True--Because graphite is soft, it requires some kind of encasement. At one time, the graphite sticks were wrapped in string or sheepskin for stability. The Bernacottis designed a carpenter's pencil that was flat and oval. Their plan called for the hollowing out of a stick of juniper wood. Soon after that, two wooden halves were carved, a graphite stick was inserted, and the halves were glued together. This is the method used today.

5. By varying the ratio of graphite to clay, the hardness of the graphite can be changed. T or F

True--By adjusting the ratio of graphite to clay, the manufacturer can control the darkness and lightness of the mark made by the pencil. The higher the number on the pencil, the harder will be the graphite and the lighter will be the mark on the paper. Years ago, the machines used to scan standardized tests couldn't read marks left by pencils with higher numbers, such as 3 or 4. The softer No. 1 pencil left marks that smudged easily. The No. 2 pencil was best for scanning the tests.

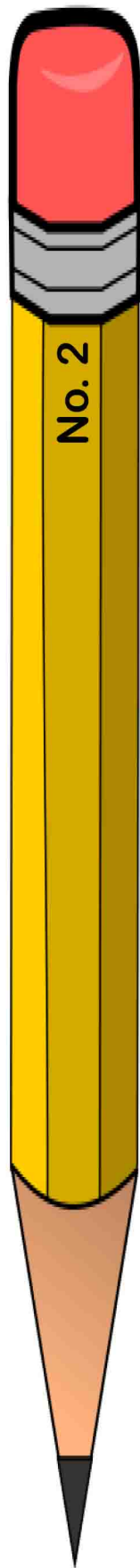
6. William Smith made the first American pencil in 1812. T or F

False--Prior to 1565, a large deposit of graphite was discovered at Grey Knotts near Cumbria, England. This deposit was extremely pure and solid. It could be sawed into sticks. The science of chemistry was in its infancy, so the substance was thought to be lead. Some people still refer to the core of a pencil as "lead." The graphite was stored in a mine and safely guarded. England held a monopoly on the production of pencils until the 1860s.

In 1795, an officer in Napoleon's army discovered a method to mix powdered graphite with clay and form the mixture into rods that were fired in a kiln. This method was discovered earlier by an Austrian, Joseph Hardtmuth of the Koh-I-Noor company in 1790.

American colonists imported pencils from Europe until after the American Revolution. William Monroe, in Concord, MA, made the first American wood pencils in 1812. A supply of graphite was found in New Hampshire. Joseph Dixon developed a method to mass produce pencils. Later this company became the contemporary Dixon Ticonderoga Pencil and Art Supplies Company.

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NEW Membership

This is a great time of year to join or renew your membership in Nazarene Educators Worldwide. NEW is an organization that supports Nazarene educators in Christian schools, childhood learning centers, public schools, private schools, home schools, global and international schools, our colleges and universities who are training educators, and our pastors and administrators of Christian schools. Membership will begin September 1, 2015 and end August 31, 2016.

A group of homeschooling educators who belong to a co-op can join as an institution or as individual members. Students enrolled as education majors can receive free membership.

NEW produces a downloadable monthly newsletter with articles for each area of education. NEW has a council made up of representatives from each area of education. The current and archived articles from the NEW newspaper and contact information for the council can be found at the NEW website, www.naznew.net. The council members are available to answer questions and help to resource teachers.

To join or renew membership to NEW, go to the website and click on membership. Find the category of membership that represents your position. Download and complete the form. Mail the form and the appropriate amount of money to Dan Harris at the address on the form. You can also become a member online by following the directions on the membership site.

Thank you for your support of Nazarene Educators Worldwide. Dr. Jim Upchurch, the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Olivet Nazarene University, is the chair of NEW. You are encouraged to contact Dr. Upchurch or any member of the NEW Council if you have questions. See the website for their contact information. You can also contact NEW on Facebook.

Dare to Discipline - By Midge Simpson
Director of Sonshine Learning Center in Greenville, SC

(Continued from page 2.)

Develop a way to reward children who show positive behavior traits. Sharing, helpfulness, friendliness, courtesy, inclusion, generosity, obedience, etc. should be heralded and affirmed. Point out group successes as well as individual successes. At the end of the day (or the class period), affirm those who showed positive traits.

Correction

When a child needs correction, emphasize what should have been appropriate behavior, so the child knows what to do in the future. Avoid a power struggle with a child who decides he must fight back in order to "save face" with his peers. Preserve every child's dignity. Settle the problems, then forget them and move on. Do not recount old faults.

Use yourself as a therapeutic agent by recognizing the value of a teacher's attention and relationship with the child. You can be a powerful force to create emotional growth in the child.

Match your choice of a correction strategy to the offense and the level of control the child needs. Use the least amount of correction that matches the offense.

1. Look directly at the misbehaving child as you continue to present the activity.
2. Ask the child a question by name to pull him or her into the group.
3. Use a non-verbal signal (shaking head, putting a finger to your lips, etc.).
4. Move nearer to the misbehaving child as you continue talking.
5. Make a gentle physical contact, such as a hand lightly on the child's shoulder, to get the child's attention.
6. Verbally redirect the group or make a general comment about disruptive behavior.
7. Direct a verbal comment or question to the child by name.
8. Ask the child to talk with you privately later about the incident.
9. Ask the child to temporarily leave the activity or the group.
10. Remove the child from the group or room.
11. Involve others—another teacher, principal, parents, etc.--if needed.

When discipline is well-managed, everyone enjoys the room atmosphere. Lack of discipline brings tension and stress, both of which are negative factors for learning. Keep these guidelines in mind as you establish a happy, productive learning environment.

I know these principles will work. I am the administrator/director of the Sonshine Learning Center in Greenville, South Carolina. I have been involved in the child care field for over 40 years.

A Teacher's Prayer

By Olga De Juana

Help me to be a fine teacher,
to keep peace in the classroom,
peace between my students and myself,
to be kind and gentle
to each and every one of my students.

Help me to be merciful to my students,
to balance mercy and discipline
in the right measure for each student,
to give genuine praise as much as
possible, to give constructive criticism
in a manner that is palatable to my
students.

Help me remain conscientious
enough to keep my lessons always
interesting, to recognize what motivates
each of my students, to accept my
students' limitations and not hold the
limitations against them.

Help me not to judge my students too harshly,
to be fair to all,
to be a good role model,
but most of all, Lord,
help me to show your love to all of my students.

Amen.

From http://www.appleseeds.org/Teachers-Prayer_OlgadeJuana.htm



Why Is the No. 2 the No. 1? - By Beula Postlewait Nazarene Educators Worldwide Council Member

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7. In the United States, the favorite wood for pencils was the Red Maple. T or F

False--By the end of the 19th Century, over 240,000 pencils were used each day in the United States. The favorite wood for pencils was the Red Cedar because it was aromatic and did not splinter when sharpened. In the next century, the supplies of Red Cedar became scarce. Manufacturers then recycled the wood from cedar fences and barns. Incense Cedar, when dyed and perfumed to resemble Red Cedar, became the common choice of wood. Most pencils today are made from Incense Cedar.

8. A carpenter's pencil has an oval or rectangular shape. T or F

True--Pencils are normally round or hexagonal. A carpenter's pencil is typically oval or rectangular, so the pencil will not roll away easily while the person is working.

9. The majority of pencils made in the United States for writing were painted yellow. T or F

True--For many years, the dominant color for pencils was yellow. This tradition began in 1890 when the Hardtmuth Company of Austria-Hungary introduced their Koh-I-Noor brand, named after a famous yellow diamond. It was intended to be the world's best and most expensive pencil. Other companies began to copy the yellow color, so their pencils would be associated with this high-quality brand. Today there are pencils in many colors and designs. However, you can still buy yellow pencils.

10. Pencils have always had erasers. T or F

False--Hymen Lipman, in 1858, secured the first patent for embedding a rubber eraser into the top end of a wooden pencil. In 1862, Joseph Reckendorfer bought the patent, but it did not hold up in court. This allowed anyone to use the design for an eraser without paying royalties. By the 1920s, almost all of the pencils sold in the United States had an eraser. The metal or plastic band that keeps the eraser attached is called a ferrule.

A pencil is a tool that we take for granted. It is often either No. 1 or near the top of the list of school supplies. And a No. 2 pencil is the Number One choice for many of the projects completed in a classroom.

(Answers: 1—F; 2—F; 3—T; 4—T; 5—T; 6—F; 7—F; 8—T; 9—T; 10—F)

Sources used: <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pencil>>; <http://lrs.ed.uiuc.edu/students/kzage/ithistory.html>; "The No. 2 is No. 1," by Lisa Gutierrez, Kansas City Star, Tuesday, August 11, 2015; www.PencilRevolution.com

