

MK CTE 9-8-23 Tips

There was a song I grew up singing in church: “Count your blessings, name them one by one.” This week may have been 90\* in your room. You may have had a long department meeting. You may have had a bad parent meeting or just too much on your plate for the week. And, let’s not forget we have our own families with their highs and lows. For a short week, it was most likely a long week.

***Why do you do it all?***

Pause for a moment: What’s your motivation to work in 90\* with all the possibilities (good and bad), take classes at KSU, and still drive your own child/grandchild to practice every night?

Now, consider the same question for your students. What’s their motivation? Why are they in your class? What’s going to motivate them to do well in your course this year? What is their definition of success?

You probably don’t know. So, let’s pause and ask them to ask themselves.

KSU student-teacher and CTE cosmetology teacher Robert recently discussed this with our class. He gives his students a handout called “My Why.” It’s a great tool to have students pause and reflect at the beginning of the school year on why they want to achieve their level of success. This isn’t something I think you should post for everyone to see in your classroom. It’s an intentional time for students to think about what motivates them, what might prevent them from being successful, and consider what supports they might need. It’s a tool that might lead to productive conversations with families. As they consider their “why” hopefully they consider sharing it with you so you can remind them as the year gets long, the temperatures get cooler, and the distractions of life ramp up.

Lastly, take time to “count your blessings” as you go through your day. It will keep you connected to your motivation. For example, today is Friday (blessing)! The high temperature is going to be 74\* (blessing)! Your work positively impacted the life of a child this week (blessing)!

Do you have a “blessing” you’d like to share with the group? Reply back to this email, and it share it with me, and I will share your stories throughout the next several emails.

***Next up: Strategies for Students who are disengaged!***

Have a great weekend teachers. Rest up and stay connected to your motivation.

-MK

P.S. You are welcome to share these newsletters as well as the KSU CTTE resource with colleagues. We all benefit from a stronger CTE community.

P.S.S. If you are now stuck with “count your blessings name them one by one” in your head, you are welcome. 😊