

Things to remember for your first day of school.

From *The First Days of School: How to Be An Effective Teacher* by Harry and Rosemary Wong.

1. Be organized with classroom structures to establish consistency. Pg. 3

“Your success during the school year will be determined by what you do on the first days of school.”

2. Plan everyday, especially the first day, with research based practices. Pg. 30

“Effective teachers use proven, research-based practices that are employed by thousands of other teachers.”

3. Establish Positive (High) Expectations for ALL students. Pg. 37

“Your expectations of your students will greatly influence their achievement in your class, in their lives, and ultimately in the world.”

4. Celebrate the first day by welcoming your students. Pg. 46

“School is not a place; school is a concept.”

5. Dress for respect, credibility, acceptance, and authority. Pg. 54

“You don’t get a second chance to make a first impression.”

6. Be inviting and start building relationships on day one. Pg. 60

“Of course knowing your curriculum is vital; but knowing your students takes time and leads to success.”

7. Address each student by name. Pg. 69

“When you look at truly effective teachers, you will also find caring, warm, lovable people.”

8. Say “please” and “thank you” Pg. 70

“Courtesy and respect convey a message that says, ‘I am paying attention to you.’”

9. Smile! Pg. 72

“A smile is the universal language of understanding, peace, and harmony.”

10. Have a classroom management plan with these characteristics: Pg. 86

High level of student involvement with work; Clear student expectations; Little wasted time, confusion, or disruption; Work-oriented but related and pleasant climate

11. Have your classroom ready and free of distractions. Pg. 93

“The main purpose of your seating arrangement is communication.”

12. Have your teacher area arranged to maximize your proximity. Pg. 97

“A teacher’s discipline problems are directly proportional to the teacher’s distance from the students.”

13. Have your teaching materials prepared with assignments posed daily and consistently. Pg. 98/124

“Your very first priority when the class starts is to get the students to work.”

14. Have yourself prepared with all curriculum materials, school procedures, and login information. Pg. 99

“Teachers who are ready maximize student learning and minimize student behavior.”