

From *The Teacher's Essential Guide to Effective Instruction*, Jim Burke

TEACHING

1. Vary instructional methods and strategies
 - Provide multiple entry points into every subject or lesson.
 - Employ a range of instructional modes.
 - Use a variety of group formats and configurations.
 - Describe and demonstrate each strategy or technique.
 - Develop students' background knowledge using different techniques.
2. Teach students how to think and learn
 - Be methodical and strategic when teaching students to learn and think.
 - Cultivate different types and aspects of intelligence in all students.
 - Instill key habits of mind in students to help them succeed.
 - Initiate students into the thinking specific to your subject matter
3. Assess understanding and use the results to improve instruction
 - Assess students before teaching to determine their current knowledge and skill levels.
 - Use multiple means and measures to assess students' performance,
 - Define the objectives and criteria clearly before you begin the lesson.
 - Teach students to assess themselves by setting goals and reflecting on their progress toward reaching those objectives throughout the process.
 - Provide useful, specific, meaningful feedback throughout
4. Incorporate tools and technology to enhance instruction
 - Use an array of tools and technologies to enhance your teaching.
 - Choose the tools or technology most appropriate to the situation.
 - Observe these traits of effective use of tools and technology
 - Support and challenge students to think critically and creatively using technology.
 - Provide an appropriate environment for using such tools and technology.

CLASSROOM CULTURE

5. Support all students to ensure their success
 - Identify and teach to students' strengths.
 - Provide different types of support throughout the learning experience.
 - Differentiate instruction whenever possible.
 - Use different methods, strategies, and configurations.
 - Demonstrate and restate your faith in your students throughout the instructional process.
6. Maintain a safe, productive learning environment
 - Establish and maintain high expectations for quality of work and behavior.
 - Create clear policies regarding behavior and enforce them consistently.
 - Cultivate a safe, respectful environment at all times.

- Consider students' developmental needs.
- Celebrate students' success in and outside of the classroom.

CURRICULUM

7. Teach skills and knowledge in context and through application
 - Design authentic learning experiences that integrate skills and knowledge.
 - Use different types of instruction to teach skills and knowledge.
 - Develop fluency through variation within lessons.
 - Organize instruction into patterns for maximum effectiveness.
 - Teach a range of skills and types of knowledge.
8. Organize instruction around meaningful conversations and sustained inquiries
 - Use essential questions and big ideas to frame and guide your instruction.
 - Choose materials related to your big ideas and essential questions.
 - Include these characteristics of effective curriculum in your conversation.
 - Create coherence and continuity within and across conversations.
 - Consider ideas and questions from different perspectives.
9. Make connections to the students' lives, other studies, and the world
 - Generate a variety of types of connections.
 - Help students make—and extend—connections.
 - Make relevant, appropriate, and timely connections.
 - Identify opportunities for possible connections when planning.
 - Use connections to improve comprehension and increase engagement.
10. Design lessons and units for maximum learning, understanding, and engagement
 - Focus on desired outcomes when designing instructional sequences.
 - Align your instruction and assessments with the appropriate standards.
 - Create lessons that will motivate and engage all students.
 - Cultivate independence through instructional practices.
 - Teach for understanding.