



Teacher Tip of the Week

Welcome to Wilson County Schools

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Welcome!

It is truly an honor for me to welcome each of you to the Wilson County School System. You are joining a family of outstanding educators, and I am pleased that you are coming on board to be a part of our TEAM. I too, am new to the TEAM and Together Everyone Achieves More.

During the weeks and months ahead, as you become better acquainted with the staff and teachers in your school and with those from across the county, you will discover that they are dedicated professionals who believe in doing their very best to provide the students of Wilson County with a world-class education. The Wilson County School System is a place where children can learn and grow in an environment filled with love and affection for each and every child enrolled in our school system.

As Director of Schools, I ask that you join with me in providing a world-class education for our students. During your tenure as a teacher, you will touch the lives of children in ways that you may never fully realize, and it is extremely important that you make every attempt to do so in a positive manner. The Wilson County School System has made great strides in the past few years, but there are many challenges ahead as we work to improve teaching and learning opportunities for the children enrolled in our schools.

Again, I would like to officially welcome you to the Wilson County School System, and I look forward to meeting and talking with each of you in the days ahead. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Best wishes for a great year,

James M. (Mike) Davis

Wilson County's New Teacher Support Program

Welcome to the Wilson County school system family! This is the third year for the New Teacher Support Program and hopes are high for an even better 2007-2008 school year.

The New Teacher Support Program is a teacher induction program aimed at helping beginning teachers make a successful transition from their teacher preparation experience or former teaching position to being a classroom teacher in one of our Wilson County Schools.

This program identifies beginning teachers (Kindergarten-12th grade) as those who are either fresh out of a teacher preparation program or who have taught only one year.

Among the common goals of the program are: improving teacher performance, increasing the retention of promising beginning teachers, promoting the personal and professional well-being of beginning teachers, and transmitting the culture of the Wilson County school System.

After a teaching career of thirty years in our school system, I find it a privilege to work with our new and out-



James M. (Mike) Davis,
Wilson County's new
Director of Schools

More About Mr. Davis

Mike Davis is a life-long educator and a life-long learner. He has been a classroom teacher, K-12 principal, and superintendent/director of schools for the past thirty-five years. Mr. Davis began his career in education in 1972 in the Knox County, Kentucky, School System where he taught math and science in grades 5-8 for four years. In 1976 he was named Principal of the Barbourville City School consisting of grades K-12. Mr. Davis moved to the Superintendent's position of the Barbourville Independent School System in 1987 where he served for eight years. In 1995, he was selected to lead the Knox County School District, from which he retired in 1999 and moved to Tennessee to become the first appointed Director of Schools for Scott County, TN. On May 17, 2007, Mr. Davis was selected by the Wilson County Board of Education to serve as the Director of Schools for the Wilson County School System and began his 20th year as a superintendent/director of schools with a total of 35 years in elementary and secondary education.

Mr. Davis received his Bachelor's Degree from Cumberland College, located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, and his Master's Degree from Union College located in Barbourville, Kentucky. He earned his Rank One (Master's degree plus 45 hours) from Eastern Kentucky University, located in Richmond, Kentucky. Mr. Davis is also a graduate of several military schools, including Military Police School, Officer Candidate School, Infantry Officer Basic and Advance Courses, and the Command and General Staff College.

In 1998, Mr. Davis was presented the Superintendent's Leadership Award (Superintendent of the Year) by the Kentucky Educational Development Coop, which represents fifty-one school districts and Morehead State University. He was also presented with the award of merit from the Kentucky School Media Association that same year. In 2007, Mr. Davis received a National Laureate Award from Computer World for his leadership in implementing distance learning throughout the Scott County School System.

After a teaching career of thirty years in our school system, I find it a privilege to work with our new and outstanding educators of tomorrow.

Terry Edwards
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Quote of the Week: “Teachers teach because they care. Teaching young people is what they do best. It requires long hours, patience and care.”—Horace Mann

throughout the Scott County School System.

Mr. Davis served in the Kentucky National Guard for 32 1/2 years and retired at the rank of Colonel in 2004. Several of the units that he commanded have or are presently serving in Iraq.

Mr. Davis has served on a number of boards during his career, including the Kentucky Purchasing Alliance Board, the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Scott County, The Board of Directors for the Children of the Cumberlands, and the Board of Directors Clinch Powell Coop. He is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, Oneida First Baptist Church, and the Oneida Kiwanis Club of which he served as

Suggested Reading for Teachers



The First Six Weeks of School (Strategies for Teachers Series)

by [Paula Denton](#), [Roxann Kriete](#), [Roxann Kriete](#), [Roxann Kriete](#)

Learn how to structure the first six weeks of school in order to lay the groundwork for a productive year of learning. Increase student investment, cooperation, responsibility, and self-control. This guidebook for K-6 teachers includes: Daily plans for the first weeks of school, detailed guidelines for building community; creating rules and teaching routines; introducing engaging curriculum; fostering autonomy; integrating social and academic learning; and establishing high expectation for learning and behavior.

Did You Know?

Research tells us that new teachers are more likely than their veteran colleagues to:

- ◆ Speak a second language
- ◆ Be single
- ◆ In debt and financially struggling
- ◆ Have technology skills
- ◆ Have little understanding of or trust in unions
- ◆ Be concerned about parental involvement
- ◆ Know about multicultural issues
- ◆ Get assigned to tough classes they may not be ready to teach

What Can Students Expect From You?

Congratulations to the following Wilson County principals who are new to their position!



Carol Ferrell
Carroll Oakland



Jeff Luttrell
Watertown High



Clint Wilson
Lebanon High

Every school year begins with a wide range of expectations on both sides of the desk. We have them. And so do students. Many of our expectations have to do with what we expect of students. We want them to come to class with pencil, paper, and books. We want them to be good citizens and to respect others—including us and their classmates. And we expect them to meet the standards and requirements in our classrooms and the school. All of these are valid expectations.

That's why we'll probably reveal our expectations to students in very clear and precise ways during the school year. We should. However, we need to go one step further if we expect to have a good year. We need to relate in very clear and precise ways what our students can expect of us. This is a step we cannot overlook if we understand that working with students in the classroom is a two-way street.

For instance, our students must be able to plan on our help and being successful. They need to anticipate the possibilities in positive rather than negative ways. This is impossible, of course, unless they know they can count on us—and students will know they can count on us only if we tell them what they can expect of us. And there is so much we need to tell them.

- 1: Students need to be told that they can count on us to class each day with a planned lesson and a planned program for helping them learn.
- 2: Students need to be assured that we will try to pick them up wherever they are academically—and take them as far as they can.
- 3: Students need to be reminded that though we will be firm, we will be fair as well.
- 4: Students need to know that they can expect to receive as much help as they need to be successful.

Clint Wilson
Lebanon High



Stan Moss
Lakeview



Wendell Marlowe
West Wilson Middle

as they need to be successful.

- 5: Students need to know that they can expect us to care about them and what we are teaching. That's why they can expect us to show enthusiasm and excitement about what they will learn.
- 6: Students need to be told that we will stress those things that they can look forward to learning in the upcoming year—because we honestly believe that there are unique opportunities for them in our classroom. If we want students to be excited about learning, we must be as well.
- 7: We must tell students that they can expect us to have some good ideas for helping them learn better. One thing is certain: Unless our teaching is built upon positive ideas for helping students achieve success, many will not listen to us.

To be a leader in the classroom, we must choose to act like one. We cannot lead students without arousing excitement for the work and rewards of learning. That's why students must be told what we expect of them and what they can expect of us.—*The Master Teacher*

Questions or Comments? E-mail edwardst@wcschools.com or call 615-444-3282, Ext. 7282