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Steve's Sound-Off

September 2014

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The school year is now in full swing and I hope everyone is still greeting their 30th day with the same enthusiasm as the 1st. Below you will find a success story that I hope will inspire you; more of the same teaching will not spark better learning, but you'll find that a little creativity and planning goes a long way in creating meaningful learning activities for your students!

-Steve

Success Story of the Month

A State Fair to Remember

Does taking your entire school on a field trip to the State Fair on the 3rd day of the new school year sound like a) a principal's worst nightmare and b) not a viable learning activity? Not for Principal Tammy Haught and her team at Doddridge County Elementary School in West Union, WV. After spending a portion of the summer meticulously preparing and planning, Tammy and her team used a Mastery Matrix to design this enriching outing around a series of meaningful learning activities. These activities included learning about the West Virginia State seal and then designing a new seal as well as comparing the weights of goats to the weights of kindergarten students. Kudos to Doddridge for demonstrating extraordinary planning and creativity!



National Youth-at-Risk Conference

Don't miss Steve Edwards present on leadership and at-risk youth at the National Youth-at-Risk Conference this November 6-8 in Las Vegas, Nevada! This conference trains adults who serve youth to create safe, healthy, caring, and intellectually empowering educational environments that foster the well-being of all children and adolescents.

For more information and to register, please visit [here](#)



5 Ways to Help Your Child Have a Great School Year

Hint: Don't help him! Failure is necessary for (and often a precursor to) success. The ones who do the work do the learning, so parents please consider who's doing more work: you or your children? Here are 5 ways to start letting go:

1. Resist the urge to save your kid.
2. Don't obsessively check your kid's grades online.
3. Encourage competence, not confidence.
4. Help kids develop goals--theirs, not yours.
5. Get in on the act.

For more, please continue reading [here](#)

What Would Steve Do?

Dear Steve: I'm an 8th grade remedial reading teacher who needs some encouragement! When school started in August, I made a commitment to get all my students reading at an 8th grade level. I know it's early in the year, but this task seems daunting. Any advice?

---Goal-Oriented in Georgia

Dear Goal-Oriented: I'll use a sports analogy that will hopefully provide some perspective. Most people would say that the objective of golf is to hit the ball into the hole with as few strokes as possible. But what if I told you that the objective is actually just to advance the ball? Your challenge, every day, is just to advance the ball. Your challenge is to, one step at a time, find ways to help engage your students, to help them learn, and ultimately achieve. With hard work and perseverance, you'll get there! ---Steve



iLeader of the Month

Meet consultant Mandy Mullen who hails from Kingston, Ontario, Canada, our sister to the North! Mandy's educational background consists of a BA in International Relations, with a focus in Peacekeeping and an MBA in Global Business Management, with a focus in Non-Profit Management. She has always been interested in working in the non-profit sector and is therefore happy to have found a home at Ignitus Worldwide, Inc. Mandy has also volunteered in different areas, including with the Canadian Cancer Society and Cradle of Love orphanage in Tanzania. Her passions in life are traveling the world and experiencing new cultures, reading cheesy rom-com novels, keeping active, and lifelong learning!

Welcome, Mandy!



Calling all iLeaders

We'd love to hear about the leaders doing meaningful work at your school!

To nominate someone to be featured as our iLeader of the Month, please contact: info@edwardsedservices.com

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All the best,

The ED Educational Team
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