

# North Florida South Carolina Region



## Common Core <sup>TIP</sup> Corner

consider this as we transition to the common core ...



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
Pretend It's On  
The Lesson Plan



THE MIEDOCRE  
TEACHER TELLS. THE  
GOOD TEACHER  
EXPLAINS. THE  
SUPERIOR TEACHER  
DEMONSTRATES.  
THE GREAT TEACHER  
INSPIRES.

- William Glasser



- ♥ Let's go back to what drew us into the teaching profession in the first place. It's about the students. The fact that the Standards are written from a student point of view, emphasizes the importance of student learning.
- ♥ Use the Standards as a lens as you consider the *how* and *why* of instruction.
- ♥ There is a strong interdisciplinary emphasis on literacy skill integration of English language arts, science, social studies, and mathematics. This focus makes CCSS different from most state standards because content literacy is not a separate entity and sole responsibility of English teachers.
- ♥ The Standards emphasize rigor and connects it with what CCSS calls *textual complexity*. For teachers, this means that our students must read a wide variety of texts in all subjects.
- ♥ CCSS positions students to be increasing independent learners. Many of the Standards describe tasks for students to accomplish independently. A student's ability to apply and use skills and knowledge without assistance is the highest level of understanding and mastery.
- ♥ Immerse your students in rich textual environments, which include digital text (blogs, wikis, ebooks). Require increasing amounts of reading. I think it is also important that we avoid assumptions about what students will and won't read. As teachers, we must expose students to a wide variety of texts at different levels of difficulty. The more students read, they more they are able to develop literacy skills.

# Set GOALS FOR YOUR OWN imPROVEMENT



## Which Way?

I stood at a fork in the road  
And didn't know which way to go  
But since I had no destination in mind  
If I got there, I'd never know!

Poem By Annette Breaux



**FACT:** Written goals are far more likely to be accomplished than mental goals.

Most people have goals, lots of them. But many people never accomplish them.

Consider New Year's resolutions. "I'm going to get skinny." "I'm going to save more money." "I'm going to get rid of the clutter in my house." "I'm going to be a nicer person."

**Notice how vague these goals are.**

There's no real plan of action, so they usually aren't accomplished. It would be far more "doable" to say, "I'm going to walk 20 minutes a day, three days a week." "I'm going to increase my monthly contributions to my savings by 5%." "I'm going to have a garage sale to get rid of things around the house that I don't need." "I'm going to make a special effort to do something nice for someone, just one thing, every day." And then you write them down and keep them in a place where you will see them daily.

Goals are accomplished one step at a time. And written goals are much more likely to be accomplished than non-written ones!

In the classroom, you might say, "I'm going to learn to implement cooperative learning this year." "I'm going to devise a new classroom management plan and implement it consistently." "I'm going to write student-oriented activities into my lesson plans daily."

**Whatever your goals, write them and post them.**

Take one step toward your goals every day, and you're sure to arrive there. Don't just stand at the fork in the road scratching your head. Have the end in mind first, map out your plan, and drive toward your destination without taking any detours.



***Even one step a day will ensure that you move Toward accomplishing your goal—which will help you improve Because each time a teacher's teaching improves, student success improves too So don't just wish, but reach a goal! It will help your students and YOU!***



## Are your Goals Realistic??

Ask any successful person, and they'll agree. In order to succeed, you must have goals. They are what turn your dreams and visions into reality.

Seems simple, right? You just write down what you want, and you're on your way to prosperity. Well, not exactly. In order for goals to work, they have to be realistic. Stating that you want to have the highest learning gains in the school.....won't make it happen.

So how do you know if your goals for this year are attainable and not just some pie-in-the-sky dream? Take this test to find out. If you answer no to any of the following statements, it's time to re-evaluate.

### Are your goals in writing?

It's awesome to dream, and you should never stop thinking about what can be. But to actually achieve milestones, you have to get your goals down on paper. It will help you stay on track and reach them.

### Are your goals specific and measurable?

For goals to work, you need to zero in on exactly what you want to accomplish. For example, saying that you want to make learning gains won't cut it. Instead, how about, "I would like to increase 80% of my students WPM in fluency"? It's specific and includes an exact (measurable) number. Once you have your targets, create a plan with deadlines. Then break it all the way down to daily activities. While preparing your strategy, it will soon become clear whether or not your goals are obtainable.

### Are your goals shared?

Once you've written down your goals, it's time to get your team on board. Share your goals with your students—called "casting your vision"—early and often, and watch them get fired up too. With everyone passionate about obtaining the dream, what may have seemed unrealistic this year could be totally obtainable in 2013.

### Are your goals your own?

One of the easiest ways to fail while trying to reach your goals is if they are not your own. If your Aunt Edna wants you to be the most successful teacher in the tri-state area, it won't happen unless that's your dream too—even if you live in a place with some really bad feet. Why? Because as we all know, education is not for the weak of heart. It's tough. And you won't have the

courage to fight through if you aren't working toward your own goals.

As thousands across the country have proven, turning your dreams into reality can come true. And it all begins by setting realistic goals. So as we start the New Year, take time to write down your goals. You'll be amazed with the outcome.







## New Year Facts and Trivia to interest kids...

- ✓ In Italy people wear red underwear to bring good luck the coming year
- ✓ In the US the coming year is celebrated with lowering a gigantic ball in Times Square
- ✓ Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah and they eat Apples and Honey
- ✓ In many places the coming year is celebrated with a Scottish song "Auld Lang Syne" meaning Old Long Ago
- ✓ In Spain it is tradition to eat a grape at each chime of the clock to ring in the new year
- ✓ The Chinese celebrate the New Year by letting off fireworks to scare away even spirits



## Birthdays

- 1 – Chris Gregory
- 2 – Stacey Turknett
- 6 – Carrie Fairchild
- 6- Randi Shelby
- 8- Rebecca Tramonte
- 10 – Julie Davis
- 11 – Rebecca Champion
- 11- Erin Olson-Tule
- 15- Melissa Balfour
- 16 – Linda Williams
- 16 – Keith Schuman
- 17- Maria Guess
- 17 – Jennifer Osborne
- 21 – Elizabeth Colombo
- 21 – Landi Miret
- 21 – Nicky Lopez
- 22- Andrea Dean
- 26 – Lucas Stricker
- 26 – Paige Thomas
- 31 - Whitney DeMuth

## Dates to celebrate in January!

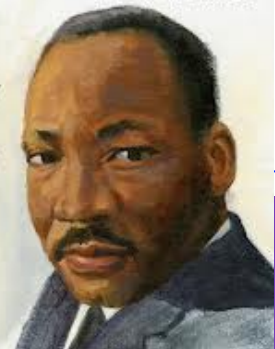


14-18

January

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. HOLIDAY

EVERYBODY  
can be  
great.  
Because  
ANYBODY  
can  
SERVE.  
You only  
need a  
HEART  
full of  
grace.  
A  
SOUL  
generated



### *Don't Quit*

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.  
Often the goal is nearer than,  
It seems to a faint and faltering man,  
Often the struggler has given up,  
When he might have captured the victor's cup,  
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,  
How close he was to the golden crown.  
Success is failure turned inside out--  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far,  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit--  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

- Author unknown

### **TOP FIVE WAYS TO GET IT ALL DONE!**

1. **To Do list:** create them solely for the purpose of checking them off! It is a great feeling to accomplish things!
2. **Reminders:** have a system to remind you such as rememberthemilk.com or alerts.com or your smart phone...you can't remember it all on your own!
3. **Ask for Help:** Enlist others in your goals –there has to be someone who has been there done that to offer advice– Remember many hands make light work
4. **Multi-task:** don't over think your work and whenever possible knock more than one pin down with the bowling ball ☺
5. **Reach your Goals:** Try this cool site Lifetango.com to start a someday list... gentle reminders will help you reach your goals!

*"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it but that it is too low and we reach it" Michelangelo*

