



A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC



5 Tips For Using Interactive Notebooks In High School

Christina Gil, Former Classroom Teacher

Classroom Teacher

Interactive notebooks can be many different things to many different people. Read this article from **Edutopia** and learn how this teacher used the five tips listed to incorporate interactive notebooks into her classroom.

1. Give students choice as often as possible.
2. Keep in mind different learning styles when planning activities.
3. Make questions and activities rigorous and useful.
4. Have a few systems in place to keep on top of it all.
5. Always have the long game in mind.

December's NCBT Twitter Chat was a success! The next one is February 7th.



Regional Education Facilitators-NC Department of Public Instruction
www.regedfac.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/home

A Message from : 2016-2017 Sandhills Region Teacher of the Year– Olivia Hall



It is that time of year again! It is time to shove Rudolph back in the attic, step on the scale to face the holiday calories, and make new resolutions we hope will actually stick. While the first of the year is a great time to think about the year ahead, I also like to take a moment to look back. In the days leading up to the ball drop and the fireworks, I find a quiet place away from the chattering of gathering friends and family to reflect on the previous year. Often, the low moments surface first. I think of the disappointment felt when one student I worked closely with still did not pass her test, even when I was sure she would. I think of the heartbreak felt as another student moved *again* just when I was starting to break through. I even remember the great lesson idea that turned out to be a very bad

lesson idea. But when I dig deeper, I also begin to think of those positive moments hidden in the everyday. I reflect on a particularly inspiring conversation with a colleague. I stop and remember the moment when a student finally stopped saying, "I can't" and began to say, "I can." I recall the conversation with a former student's parent who tells me that both her daughters still speak of me often – even five years after I was their teacher. For teachers, the school year is filled with many highs and lows. There are moments when we cry. There are moments full of laughter. There are even moments when we want to give up and walk away from this tiring, demanding profession. However, taking time to reflect on those everyday moments breaks us from our daily routines and

reminds us of the impact we have on our students' lives. Sure, there is always more to learn, and we can always improve, but when we take a moment to reflect on the past year, we realize that we are making a difference.

Welcome to a new year! A year that will be full of highs and lows and everything in-between. A year of possibilities. The start of a new year is a great time to remind ourselves that we still have time to try again. We have an opportunity to find new ways to reach students, form relationships, and try new instructional strategies. I encourage you to make the same resolution I am making for 2017. Together, let us find the beauty of our profession in the everyday moments.

**Olivia Hall–
Sampson County Schools**

New State Superintendent of Schools: Mark Johnson

Mark Johnson is North Carolina's new State Superintendent of Schools. He grew up in Louisiana and attended public schools there. He graduated from the state's public residential high school, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts. He attended Emory University in Atlanta. Mr. Johnson was a Teach for America corps member and taught at West Charlotte High School for two years. He taught earth science to ninth-

graders. After two years, Mr. Johnson attended law school at UNC-Chapel Hill. Prior to his election as State Superintendent, he was a lawyer for a technology firm in Winston-Salem. Mr. Johnson has also been a member of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school board for two years. Mr. Johnson's goals are:
*Use the authority under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to reform testing

*Meaningful professional development for teachers

*Encourage career growth for teachers, giving them the option of being leaders in their schools

*Provide support from the Department of Public Instruction for local initiatives.

