

JUST FOR TEACHERS

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome Back!

By Kelly Zunkiewicz, Teacher Liaison

As summer vacation comes to a close and we gear up for the 2018-2019 school year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the work that is being done across the state by amazing teachers just like you. 1,873 schools earned an A or B for the 2017-2018 school year and 96% of F schools improved at least one or more letter grades. Florida also made more progress than any other state in the nation, with students outperforming their national peers in Grade 4 reading and math and Grade 8 reading. The great work wouldn't be possible without teachers!

One teacher that I have the pleasure of introducing to you is Joy Prescott, the 2019 Florida Teacher of the Year. Over the next few months I hope you will get to know Joy from her blogs, videos, and professional learning sessions. Joy is a 4th grade math teacher from *Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School* on the Brighton Seminole Reservation in Glades County.

I was able to experience Joy's class in action last May and instantly had so many questions about her teaching practice. I cannot wait to learn from her this year as she assumes her role as Florida's Teacher of the Year. One question I couldn't wait to ask Joy was about the pennants that hung from her classroom ceiling. Joy shared how these *Math About Me* pennants along with other activities help her start the year off right by building strong relationships with her students and her students building strong relationships with each other. You can read more in her latest blog post *The Most Important Day of the Year*. Make sure to check it out at FloridaTeachersLead.org and have a wonderful first day of school!

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Course Description Awareness Day: Science

By Chris Summers,
Computer Science Specialist



The Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support is excited to announce today, August 1st, as Florida's first Course Description Awareness Day. This will be the first in a series of days devoted to spreading awareness and celebrating the content of Florida's K-12 courses.

Today we place the microscope on science courses and Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards by highlighting the exciting challenges students face, and overcome, in courses due to the alignment with Florida's rigorous standards.

As part of the Course Description Awareness Day, Florida teachers will be awarded Open Badge micro-credentials in recognition of their participation. Micro-credentials are an increasingly popular method to display achievements and skills in which a person demonstrates competency. Digital "badges" are portable with verified, embedded information as evidence of the demonstrated skills and achievements. Displaying these badges will spread awareness concerning the importance of course descriptions and their utilization when planning for instruction within Florida's classrooms.

Participating in Course Description Day:

Click the link below that corresponds to your grade band. Create a login, at no cost to you. Then join the course.

K-5 <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/RPPHRJ>
6-8 <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/99WGCE>
9-12 <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/WFFC7D>

For additional information, please visit:

<http://www.fl DOE.org/academics/standards/subject-areas/math-science/science/course-descr.stml>



Blog: The Most Important Day of the Year

By Joy Prescott, Glades County TOY
2019 Florida Teacher of the Year

A brand new school year is drawing near and you probably have a thousand questions racing through your head: *What will my students be like? Will they enjoy being in my class? What ways will I encourage them to reach their full potential?* While these are all good questions, they are ones that can be put on the back burner. Your focus right now should be on the most important day of the year: The First Day of School. This day is crucial because it sets the tone for the rest of the year.

I want my students to get to know me and I want to get to know them. But even more important, I want them to understand that they are walking into a classroom where everyone will be treated with kindness and respect.

Even as a veteran teacher, I spend countless hours scouring the Internet to find activities that will help me achieve the classroom goals. The following activities are ones that I have borrowed from other fabulous teachers across the state and country. How lucky are we that we no longer have to reinvent the wheel. Great teachers beg, borrow and improvise!!

Click *HERE* to read more about the activities Joy uses in her classroom.