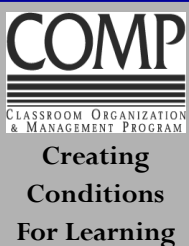


TRANSITION TO TEACHING

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2006



A Comprehensive Program for Creating an Effective Learning Environment



Monique Tucker and Todd Wesson participate in a Memphis COMP activity.

Elaine Jones, Ed.D., Educational Consultant and former Professional Development Coordinator for Metropolitan Nashville Schools, led outstanding Professional Development sessions this year in Memphis and Dickson for Tennessee's Transition to Teaching fellows. The Classroom Organization and Management Program (COMP) focused on a common sense approach to effectively managing the classroom in order to create a positive climate for learning.

Mrs. Jones, COMP Trainer for over a decade, brings tremendous insight and experience to future teachers. Elaine stated that she has observed the successful results of COMP in the schools that she has worked with. Several of these schools have moved from some of the lowest ranked in academics to among of the highest in the district. According to Elaine, "It makes one so proud of teachers who take what we teach in COMP and put it into practice in the classroom. It makes a tremendous difference in both student achievement and behavior."

Fellows in cohorts three and four, Teacher Advisors and T2T administrators participated in the two day COMP sessions. Sharonda Walker, Cohort 4, describes COMP as follows, "As a result of the training, I have been able to respond to any rising problem in my classroom. I have a procedure for absolutely

everything; I can say that my classroom is well-managed."

Participants took part in learning activities that simulated a positive classroom environment, and groups of T2T fellows worked together to develop classroom rules, procedures and preventive strategies. The fellows also received a manual that not only provides a set of workshop materials, but is a reference book for use throughout the year.

COMP is organized into eight modules, each beginning with a common sense rationale that brings the importance of the particular system into focus. COMP then provides participants with proven strategies for implementing, establishing, and maintaining each system in a classroom throughout the year. These modules include: organizing the classroom; planning and teaching rules and procedures; managing student work and improving accountability; maintaining good student behavior; planning and organizing instruction; conducting and facilitating instruction to maintain lesson momentum; getting the year off to a good start; climate, communication, and self-management. As the modules were covered, the T2T fellows participated in interactive exercises in order to apply these ideas in their own classrooms.



Jessica Potts, Tandra Stevens, & Pete Hut work with Ginger McKenzie in Dickson, TN.



Memphis COMP



Meet Your T2T Beginning Teacher Advisors

Farewell to Shelia Becker, Janice Booker, and Helen Broughton! We appreciate all of your ground breaking work as BTA's, thank you! Welcome to our new BTA's and good luck with the upcoming school year!

Charles Perkins West Tennessee Advisor

Charles brings 25 years of teaching and 5 years of administrative experience to the T2T program. Fifteen of these years, Charles taught various history courses at Crawford High School in Oklahoma. While at Crawford, he also coached several sports teams, including football, volleyball, and track. This interest in sports is also present in Charles's everyday life, as he enjoys jogging, weightlifting, and playing basketball. Though some might find it shocking, Charles really enjoys cooking. In particular, he likes to bake cakes and pies. His advice to beginning teachers is to come on strong and be consistent. Preventing problems is the key to success. Prevention is accomplished through careful planning. Additionally, Charles thinks that effective communication with other teachers and principals is critical to being a successful teacher. Charles says that his experience with the T2T program has been great and that he wishes he would have had this type of support when he was a first-time teacher. Thanks, Charles!



Sandy Gay West Tennessee Advisor

Sandy has been a teacher for twenty eight years. After teaching her first six years in Savannah, Georgia, Sandy then moved to Tennessee where she continued to teach grades K-5 and 7-9. All but two of these years were in public schools. In addition to teaching, she has been a part of the Christian Education Association. Sandy is a mother of two boys in high school and she enjoys going to her son Andrew's soccer games. Sandy also likes to cook and travel. In her busy schedule, she also finds time to express her musical talents... she plays the accordion and clarinet! Some advice that Sandy would like to give future teachers is to teach the students in your classroom the way that you would want your own children taught in school. This is Sandy's first year with T2T. She applauds the program and has said that she wishes she had a mentor during her first years as a teacher because she would have been a much better beginning teacher as a result!



Jack Leach West Tennessee Advisor



Jack began his teaching career in Milan, TN where he taught self-contained classes in grades 3, 5, and 6. Aside from teaching, Jack has also served as Director of Title IV-C Reading Programs in Milan City Schools and was an assistant professor at UT Martin in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Jack was invited to be one of the first Basic Skills First consulting teachers in the West TN school districts, which led to his position of coordinator of Alternative Instructional Programs for Memphis City Schools (MCS). The last years of Jack's career in MCS were spent as a Staff Development Coordinator at the district's Teaching & Learning Academy. Upon his retirement from MCS, he was named one of Tennessee's cadre of Exemplary Educators (EEs). Jack's advice to the new teachers is to never stop being childlike. Jack says to "go through each day and look at everything and everyone as though it's for the first time." Jack also advises teachers to anticipate and manage oppositional students' behavior. We look forward to all of Jack's contributions as a T2T BTA!

Clare Baker Middle Tennessee Advisor

Clare Baker has taught for 33 years, 32 of which were in the 7th & 8th grade. Her content area focus was pre-algebra, algebra, and language arts. The last year she taught in a Catholic school where she also designed the entire 7th grade curriculum. Clare is an original state chosen PALS member. Among many organizations, she also is a life-time MNEA, TEA, and NEA member. Clare was also the runner up Middle School Teacher of the Year in Nashville in 1994 and 2003. This Advisor is not only a teacher, she is a mother of one daughter, lab, and goldfish. She also is a classic car enthusiast! Clare frequently attends car shows and cruise-ins. Clare advises new teachers of the importance of balancing teaching with your family life. She also encourages new teachers to remember to "pick your battles wisely!" Finally, remember that evaluations come sooner than you think. Start to prepare for these early. Thank you Clare for your continued collaboration with T2T's beginning teachers!



Ginger McKenzie East Tennessee Advisor

Ginger has taught for ten years in every subject area for elementary grades. After teaching, she became the supervisor and later Principal for grades pre-k through eight. Most of Ginger's teaching career has been spent in Kingsport County Schools in Tennessee. Ginger has been in multiple professional organizations including Phi Delta Kappa Honor Society, TN Principal's Association, State Supervisor's Association and was also chosen to be on the Governor's Task Force for Educational reform. Ginger, like many of our T2T fellows, began teaching as her second career. In her free time, Ginger enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, thrift shopping, and reading. Some advice that Ginger thought would be helpful to new teachers is to challenge your students, plan ahead, lead by example, and most of all, to inspire the students! This is Ginger's second year as a T2T Advisor and she is thrilled that her work has provided her the opportunity to help teachers be the best they can be!



**"I've taught for 33 years; now is when I give back."
- Clare Baker**

Teacher

REBECCA PRICE
Biology, Jefferson Co HS



Congratulations to Rebecca Price, T2T Cohort 3 fellow, on her recent move to AP Biology teacher at Jefferson County High School in East Tennessee. Rebecca was touted as a major factor in the rise in test scores and Gateway scores for the 2005-2006 school year. The honor of teaching an AP course speaks so well of a Transition to Teaching fellow and her unbelievable instructional strategies. Ginger McKenzie, Rebecca's beginning teacher advisor, has said that she is constantly amazed at the depth in Ms. Price's planning. Ginger continues to say, "The students are engaged every minute of a 90 minute class. Her classroom management is also impeccable. Students respect her immensely because she teaches every minute and expects the best from them. Her labs and activities keep the students engaged and interested. She is just an exceptional teacher and person. The love she has for teaching and her students just exudes." Ms. Price attributes some of her success to the training that she received through Transition to Teaching, "T2T prepared me with appropriate coursework, training, and an excellent mentor my first year. Many veteran teachers were envious that they did not have the benefit of a weekly mentor like I have. This is Ms. Price's second year at Jefferson County High and the support of her colleagues and her administrators speaks volumes about her instructional methods. We are proud of your accomplishments, Rebecca!

Spotlight



COHORT 4

Please welcome these teachers if they are in your school!

Todd Atkins—Knox County—Holston Middle School
Carmelita Brackett—Memphis City—Fairley High School
Richard Cataldi—Lenoir City—Lenoir City High School
Vickie Crawford—Memphis City—Hickory Ridge Middle
Edward Denton—Memphis City—Airways Middle
Randy Ellis—Marion County—Marion Co High School
Reva Evans—Claiborne County—Claiborne High School
Vernice Ezell—Memphis City—Airways Middle
Vickie Fayne—Tipton County—Covington High School
Charles Flowers—Metro Nashville—Margaret Allen Middle
Rohit Goel—Memphis City—East High
Lindsay Greenwood—Gibson County—Gibson County High
Johnnie Grimes—Metro Nashville—East Literature Magnet
Tiffany Henderson—Memphis City—KIPP Academy
Christine King—Memphis City—Lester School
Lindsey Lippner—Memphis City—Treadwell High
Veranda Moffett—Memphis City—Whitehaven High School
Ronald Moore—Memphis City—Trezevant High School
Tangie Nelson—Memphis City—Longview Middle
Jessica Potts—Metro Nashville—Maplewood High School
Jeff Robertson—Memphis City—Ridgeway High School
Queen Rodgers—West, TN
Jack Ronai—Memphis City—Wooddale High School
Jason Simpson—Tipton County—Munford High School
Jamie Smith—West, TN
Tandra Stevens—Davidson County—Jere Baxter ALC
Robert Taylor—Metro Nashville—Bailey Middle
Daniel Terry—Sequatchie County—Sequatchie High School
Karolyn Thacker—Putnam County—Cookeville High School
David Thornton—Metro Nashville Public Schools
Monique Tucker—Memphis City—Hamilton Middle
Trione Vincent—Memphis City—A. Maceo Walker
Sharonda Walker—Memphis City—Airways Middle
Takisha Wallace—Memphis City—Hamilton High School
"Rocky" Warren—Morgan County—Warburg Vocational School
Todd Wesson—Memphis City—Hamilton High School

Best wishes for a successful year!

The State Department Commends T2T



In 2002, the Tennessee Department of Education was awarded a five year Transition to Teaching Grant through the Office of Innovation and Improvement. The federal grant program was designed to use No Child Left Behind Funds to help high need school districts. Tennessee designed T2T to meet the teacher shortage of math and science in high-need, high-poverty areas. It supports the recruitment and retention of highly qualified mid-career professionals and recent college graduates who have not majored in education to teach in high-need schools and districts through an alternative route to licensure. The Transition to Teaching program has not only placed highly qualified teachers into the shortage areas that presently exist, but will continue to assist districts—Tennessee now has 10,000 teachers eligible to retire, and one principal was faced with recruiting 41 new teachers into his school this year. Furthermore, administrators have been very pleased with the quality of the preparation and support these teachers receive. They enter the classroom with strong content background and bring real life applications to the students through their work experience. The success of the program is obvious when the districts call and request additional Transition to Teaching candidates for the next school year. Both the teachers and the district personnel recognize that the mentoring component of the Transition to Teaching Program is crucial to the success of these teachers as they transition into their new career. Angelia Cannon, Executive Director of Teacher Quality and I have found it a true pleasure to work with these teachers, mentors, and district personnel across our state through the Transition to Teaching Program.

- Karen Moody, Director of Teacher Quality and Recruitment

IMPORTANT DATES

PRAXIS

Cohort 3
Register to take the PLT on one of these dates:

Test Date	Register by
Nov. 18	Oct. 19
Jan. 13	Dec 21

Cohort 4
Content Exams should be completed.

Next COMP

Thank you for participating in COMP! T2T hopes that you have found the strategies to be effective in your classrooms. Please keep in mind that the third day of COMP will be scheduled this fall. Watch for the date!

www.tnt2t.com

Tel: 901-678-5351

Fax: 901-678-4778

E-mail: t2t@memphis.edu



T2T held a third day of program information following COMP. Charles Perkins, Marshall Selvidge, & Carol Williams participated in the Memphis teacher panel.

RECOMMENDED READING

The following books and magazines have been recommended by your Beginning Teacher Advisors and fellow teachers as readings that they found helpful and encouraging. Take some time to check these out!

Teaching for Learning Success by Gloria Frender

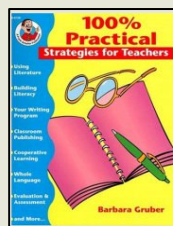
Strategies and Activities to Raise Student Achievement by Teri Breeden

Algebra with Pizzazz published by Creative Publications

Educational Leadership

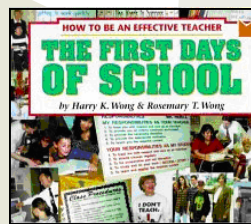
Learning to Teach...Not Just for Beginners, published by Scholastic Professional Books

100% Practical



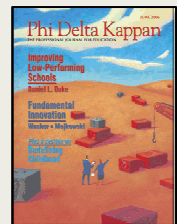
by Frank Schaffer

First Days of School



by Harry Wong

KAPPAN Magazine



The University of Memphis
Office of the Dean
College of Education
215 Ball Hall
Memphis, TN 38152-3570

