

# NC Beginning Teacher Newsletter



Regional Education Facilitators – North Carolina Department of Public Instruction – [bit.ly/NCDPIREF](http://bit.ly/NCDPIREF)



## A Message from the 2019 Northeast Regional Teacher of the Year, Damon Walcott



Washington County High | Beaufort County Schools

So, you have a classroom full of students...now what?! Whether you came straight out of college or transferred from the work force, you already realize that teaching is an occupation like no other. The intellectual, social, and emotional development of so many young lives is now in your hands. This can be a daunting task, but don't stress over that realization. You are not alone! As a 15-year teacher, I still feel the energy of a new teacher at the beginning of every school year. This feeling comes from the fact YOU CARE and are willing to search far and wide for ideas, resources, and

motivation to direct and change the life of each and every child in your room. Bravo for your journey thus far. While the school year is young, the “honeymoon period” is over, and we’ve begun to make some real traction.

By now you have begun relationships with students and the professionals you will work alongside this year. Now is the time to aim forward and set the year’s goals. What will you do this year to make a true, authentic impact in your class, for your school, and with your community? Begin by asking yourself, “Why?”. Why are you here at this particular place at this particular time? What path led you to become a teacher? Who inspired you and encouraged you to ask yourself, “What if...”? By searching for our **why**, we can actualize our purpose as a teacher. Our purpose, our **why**, should precede our how. It steers the ship and directs our compass in calm and rough seas. I encourage you reflect on your **why** and embrace it as your central focus.

In the same way, help every student find their own purpose, their own **why**. Students who discover a purpose can better realize the importance of education to fulfill that vision. Collaborate with other professionals to provide a holistic education for our youth. Partner with those outside your walls so your local community can fulfill that same goal. Find creative uses for resources at hand. Allow students to explore those resources to foster partnership and investment in classroom goals. From local professionals visiting your room to grant-funded drones and coding apps, resources extend the curriculum and allow students to become 21st century learners.

Teach that failure is ok! Failure teaches us as much as success does. It can be a learning experience if we guide students to recognize needed changes to find desired results. This type of environment encourages risk taking, creativity, and even self-discovery.

Thank you for being a teacher in our great state. You are the living version of a rock star to our students! Keep this “beginning of year” energy as you continue through the semester and may your **why** be your guide.

## 52 Of Our Favorite Inspirational Quotes For Teachers by TeachThought Staff



**Teaching is hard**, and at times it can seem like energy is in short supply. Sometimes, we all need a little inspiration to remind us why we do what we do.

First, a preface: **Teacher burnout** is a real thing. Don't go looking for “inspiration” when you need help with a unit, a smarter way to grade papers, or a **simpler way to grade quizzes**. (You can ask your mentor or administrator for support in these instances.) But if you're sure what you need is an 8-second pep talk, one of these quotes may be exactly what you need. Visit the link below.

<https://www.teachthought.com/pedagogy/52-favorite-inspirational-quotes-for-teachers/>