

ADVICE FOR NEW TEACHING FELLOWS

The following information is based on classroom experiences and compiled by previous Science Teaching Fellows.

- Keep the teacher involved, interested, and excited about the lesson.
- Practice using your best interpersonal skills with the teacher and the students.
- Think out loud.
- Be confident and knowledgeable and respect will follow.
- Try to engage students with a fun demonstration at the beginning of the lesson.
- Connect the lesson to students' lives.
- Always be enthusiastic. The students will pick up on your attitude towards the lesson.
- Stay motivated and always show enthusiasm for the lesson because it has a big impact on how engaged the students are. On that note, it is also important to be enthusiastic talking to your teacher partner because the students will follow the teacher's lead – if the teacher is excited, students are, too!
- If you let the teacher disengage from the lesson, the students also will – such as if the teacher checks e-mail, makes a phone call, grades papers, etc. Always give the teacher a role.
- Try to learn the names of every student quickly – it impresses them, it shows you care about them and is good if discipline is needed.
- Always be positive and smile.
- Be enthusiastic and passionate – it rubs off!
- Don't be afraid to say that you do not know something.
- Be creative and dynamic in your presentations (ex: PowerPoints with animations, videos, board, role play concepts, hands on lessons, be animated)
- Motivate and encourage students.
- Take the effort to involve your partner teacher, even when it is not easy.
- Answer some of your own questions about teaching by testing things out in the classroom. If it doesn't work for first period, change it!
- Be creative and don't be afraid to fail.
- Call on students to rephrase things in their own words – this may help you see what they are really understanding. This may also help other students improve their understanding.
- Try new and different ways to get the students attention when you need to tell them something. Avoid the temptation to talk over them!
- Try to have classroom conversations to get the students' input and build on it.
- Let the students see how you think as a scientist. When you notice something analogous to your lab experience, say so. When you wonder about something, let them hear you think through it.
- Engage their young minds in excitable and memorable methods.
- Always give an example using real-life situations.
- Teach science in a simple way, but make them think in a big way. Teach simple, think BIG!