

**Teacher Tips Provided by Alabama State Organization DKG members.**

*Continue the Journey: Be an Inspiration*

**Students:**

Stand at the back of the room….let students teach.

Tell stories to relate subject matter to their lives.

Margaret Jackson, Alpha Omega

Be careful when telling a child to treat others the way they want to be treated. They might have been mistreated and take it as payback time.

Mary Merrill, Gamma Zeta

Learn to love all your students.

Evelyn Collier, Alpha Kappa

Make students feel like a part of the class. Give them tasks to do that contribute to the smooth operation of the classroom (e.g. time keeper- alert class with a 5-minute warning; attendance helper- put any handouts/notes for the day in a folder for absent students).

Ave Jack, Alpha Nu

Meet each student at the door as they enter with a personal greeting. Begin every day in a positive way for each child.

Valerie Powell, Gamma Beta

To get students to do a task, don’t ask them if they want to do it. Ask them, “Do you want to do this or that?” Examples: Do you want to shelve fiction or non-fiction books? Do you want to read *The Little House* or *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel?*

Helga Visscher, Beta

Involve your students in the content you are teaching. Allow group activities to potentiate your teaching.

Sheri White, Alpha Tau

Encourage your students to make mistakes. It is part of learning.

Karen Bush

Take time to make connections with your students!

Jessica White

Be kind and interested in your students’ personal lives.

Sheri White, Alpha Tau

Attend student extra-curricular activities. Then you can make comments like “that was a great tackle or slam dunk!” This praise can increase their self-esteem and show you are interested.

Lynda Smitherman, Alpha

Greet students individually at the door everyday/period. It not only makes them feel important but also teaches proper greeting.

Bridgett Junkin, Delta Omicron

Listen to the students and observe behavior patterns.

Dianne Johnson, Gamma Phi

Never give any homework problem you have not worked yourself. This will build necessary TRUST with students.

Kerry Townsend, Rho

To prevent tattling, I put a complaint box in the room. I told students if they had a complaint, they needed to write it down, and I would read them and deal with the problems. Every day I read 2 or 3 and would discuss the problem and solution with them. The first couple of weeks it was full (most from the same boy). After a while, he got tired of writing and the box didn’t fill up anymore.

Terry Mayfield, Mu

It’s okay to be vulnerable. Students appreciate that you have to look something up before you speak. –

Joyce Allison, Alpha Omicron

Don’t always be so serious! Laugh with your students.

Deborah Jones, Rho

Treat all students with respect and exemplify good manners. They will then treat you with respect.

Lynda Smitherman, Alpha

**Training/professional development:**

Pick one thing to get out of professional development. Always aim for walking away with one thing to try.

Locate about three go-to resources, rather than trying to create all from scratch.

Have a detailed lesson plan for presentation—never go without a plan.

Seek new and different ideas and experiences!

Beta Nu

Take advice from everyone, but do what feels comfortable to you that fits who you are as a person/teacher.

Sonja Adams, Gamma Zeta

Remember you know what you are doing!

Amy C. Crew, Pi Chapter

Be willing to try the skills that you have learned. We expect students to do things that are new and uncomfortable to them! Lead by example. Let them see you writing, reading, solving problems, etc.

Remember that asking for help doesn’t make you helpless.

Joann Skinner, Gamma Zeta

**Organization/Classroom Management**

Create a google calendar for your department/ grade level to reduce overscheduling.

Amy Stills, Rho

Invest in an excellent planner and use it! My favorite it the Panda Planner Pro. You need a monthly, weekly, daily, and extra note pages.

Michelle Stringfellow, Gamma Nu

Prepare, prepare, prepare…then know how to punt!

Debby Crowell, Gamma Beta

Over plan for every exception that may occur.

Prepare for the next day’s class before leaving school. Have any handouts, labs, activities, items, and media ready the day before needed.

Dr. Lelia W. Frank, Alpha

Be consistent and firm with a real smile, but remember you are not their friend.

Regina Long, Beta Alpha

Never let the students get the upper hand in a situation. If you divert the difficult situation most times, it will pass. You must be the settler of unnecessary conflicts. Good luck!

Beta Nu

Avert a student meltdown with a straight calm face and a quiet voice.

Linda Berry, Alpha Tau

Be flexible…seriously!

Karen Bush

Start the year off like the “Wicked Witch of the West”. You can lighten up as the year goes on, but you can never get stricter.

Let your students have input on classroom rules. This lets students feel ownership.

Nicole Woody, Beta Delta

Keep students engaged---provide interactive activities and always add comedy!!

Tell students that your class is not a spectator sport, and everyone must be in the game!

Ann Jones, Delta Beta

When writing your rules, make sure they are in a positive manner and can be assessed.

Ann Lachanu, Mu

Make sure your instructions are clear before presenting them to the audience/class.

Velma Essex, Gamma Phi

Stay organized. Fail to plan; plan to fail. Pick your battles! Amy C. Crew, Pi Chapter

Be prepared: PowerPoint presentation, hand-outs, pencils/pens, paper, time line for projects/tests etc.

Donna Eaves, Alpha Iota

Start with the end in mind. Set up procedures for everything that will happen during the day. Teach and reinforce procedure.

Always have a plan B. Things don’t always go well. Have a backup plan.

Kate Mousel, Gamma Omicron

Always expect the unexpected and be flexible and willing to make changes if needed.

Wendy Stafford

Wear black till November. Set the tone. Keep them guessing!

S. Markel, Delta Alpha

Be stern but fair!

Dianne Johnson, Gamma Phi

Classroom rules for both the students and teacher: 1. Show up. 2. Show up on time. 3. Show up prepared.

Darlene Freemon, Beta

Prepare and be informed on what you are teaching daily no matter how many years you have taught it.

Sarah Davis, Beta Gamma

Walk around with a clip board with roll sheets on it. Mark everything you need to remember: participation, absentees, unruly behavior, and work completed. (It is a good reminder for discipline or test taking, and is a quick way to give daily scores without grading each paper.) Not to mention, if you just stare at them and they pretend to write on the clip board, they stop unruly behavior!

Ann Jones, Delta Beta

**Success/Inspiration/Handling Stress**

Make friends with like-minded teachers. Positivity breeds positivity.

Mrs. Podemski, Pi

Stepping into the unknown is scary, but it may be the first step toward fulfilling your destiny. This is an embellishment on the old saying, “You will never know unless you try!”

Beta Nu

Each day is a new day! It’s okay to fail….you learn more from your failures than successes. Learn and keep going!!

Libby Watson, Mu

Don’t procrastinate. Begin by making a plan/outline. Work on one small task a day/week, depending on your timeframe. Eventually, the big project is finished. Things get done a piece at a time.

Elaine Brookshire, Rho

Strive to make at least one person smile in your day.

Shoot for the moon; you may miss, but you will reach a star.

Teresa Noell, Gamma Zeta

Post a verse or quote that inspires you on your podium or at your desk. It may need to be one that reminds you of the importance of doing your job well!

Do not be afraid of failure! Try things outside of the box. If it doesn’t work the first time, reflect, adjust, and try it again. Things get better the more times we try.

Pray! Amy C. Crew, Pi Chapter

Leaders never participate in bad behavior. They help others by showing good behavior.

Gennice Burch, Alpha

Make sure you love your discipline. A teacher who doesn’t love her subject matter will not have a happy life as a teacher.

Robin Woolsey, Delta Beta

Be the change you wish to see in the world. - Mahatma Gandhi

Usha Midkiff, Beta

If you do what you’ve always done, you will get what you’ve always gotten. If you don’t like what you are getting, you must change what you are doing! Terry Galbraith, Delta

Play well with others, and they will reciprocate.

Dianne Johnson, Gamma Phi

Do the best you can! Tell the students that you sometimes make mistakes.

Joan Armstrong, Zeta

Always treat others the way you want to be treated.

Donna Moulton, Beta Nu

Be of good cheer and focus on your students to help them build confidence.

While extending patience and mercy to your students, extend it to yourself as well.

Karen Bush

Tomorrow is another day!

You’re a music teacher; let them make organized noise!

Nobody cares how much you know until he/she knows how much you care.

Amy C. Crew, Pi Chapter

BE the best you can be!

Donna Moulton, Beta Nu

Keep a folder of notes, cards, pictures etc. from students, parents, and others. There are days you need a reminder of the impact you are making in lives!

Ann Jones, Delta Beta

To avoid stress, take time for yourself! Take care of yourself!

Lisa B. Hammett, Rho

Stress will make you stronger. Believe it. Trust that God doesn’t give more than you can handle.

Kerry Townsend, Rho

Take time for yourself!

Felicia Harding, Rho

**Parents:**

When communicating with parents, always try to begin with a positive comment before the negative. Communicate clearly and concisely.

Lisa Welch, Alpha Kappa

Before answering difficult parent emails: -Consult with the principal. –Wait 24 hours to respond. –Copy the principal.

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**WHO WE ARE**: *Delta Kappa Gamma* promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Members are empowered with new knowledge and professional development targeted towards

reaching their full potential. Its projects include supporting early career educators and Schools for Africa.

Its members are women educators from 17 countries impacting education worldwide.

**DKG membership benefits include**:

• leadership training

• scholarships, grants, honors, and awards

• networking opportunities

* professional journals
* newsletter and other publications for members

• insurance offerings and group discounts

* valuable community, state, national and worldwide projects

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The insights shared here were from members in attendance at the *2020* *Alabama State Leadership Day*.

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DKG welcomes inquiries from women educators in any field or level of education. For more information concerning a local chapter please contact:

