

CLASSROOM BITS & BYTES

The Reality of Shrinking Budgets



Everyone needs to learn to stretch a dollar. At GTL we understand the budgetary pressures you may be experiencing. To help you and your students benefit from our products, we will work with you on a personal level to tailor our offerings to your budget.



Before we know it, we will be testing again. It's time to diagnose weaknesses in our students, and differentiate instruction so that the students have the opportunity to improve their outcomes.

The Diagnose, Differentiate, Direct model has allowed some of our schools to go from Unacceptable to Acceptable, Recognized and several to Exemplary - including a campus with a 100% pass rate.

Let us help you to help your students. We have had great success raising scores, and we would like to help you.

Thanks again to everyone that stopped by our booth at TASA (in Austin). If you signed up for our drawing, you'll be happy to know that the winner of a site license (valued over \$3,000) is Ms. Laurie Cobb from Denison ISD. She will be selecting a grade and product (i.e. math, science, etc.) for a 12 month, campus site license.

Congratulations. We are looking forward to working with Denison ISD.

in other news -

We are expanding our research/working relationship with UNT to include additional departments and education students. We have been working with UNT for 6 years, and they continue to impact our product development with their input and experience.



End-Of-Course-Prep

Starting with the 2011/2012 school year, schools need to prepare for the new end-of-course exams. GoToLearn / Diagnostic Plus will be offering help with this preparation. Diagnostic Assessments and Tutorials will soon be available for:

- Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry
- Physics, Biology, Chemistry
- US History, World History, World Geography, US Government

Be sure to include GoToLearn in your Campus Improvement Plans.

Diagnose each student's weakness and plan your instruction to meet those needs. Assessment questions and step-by-step tutorials can help you to differentiate - by student.

Math (grades 1-12), Science (grades 1-12), ELA (grade 1) and Social Studies (grades 5, 8 and 11) are available in addition to the EOC products. Products are aligned to the TEKS as specified by TEA. Most products are available in our exclusive dual-language format.

For information and/or a demo

Call (972-543-4290) or email for more information (info@gotolearn.org) jgoode@gotolearn.org, or visit our web site www.gotolearn.org



Language is an Art

Even if we Both speak English

George Bernard Shaw once said, "England and America are two countries separated by the same language."

- A bonnet in the U.S. is a hat, but in England it is the hood of your car.
- An antenna in the US is used with a TV or radio, but in England it's part of an insect. A Brit would use an aerial for his TV or radio.
- If a Brit asks if you have a torch, he's looking for a flashlight.
- If a Brit asks if you've seen his jumper, that's a sweater.
- In England the team uniform for sports is called a strip.

Sometimes the words we use don't make much sense.

- Why do we park in the driveway and drive on the parkway?
- Why do we recite at a play and play at a recital?
- Why do our noses run and our feet smell?

Quote

It's what you learn after you know it all that counts. Harry S. Truman

Teaching Tip

NOTE: By popular request, we are rerunning a Teaching Tip from last year.

As we prepare for the TAKS tests, some things that may help you to help your students are as follows.

Replication of the test scenario helps to familiarize the student and make expectations relevant. If you know that the test will have approximately 40 questions, create 10 questions and print/reproduce them in a format similar to the TAKS test presentation of the questions. Have your students enter the room, take their seats, and prepare to take the test - just as they would with the TAKS test. Turning in their completed answer sheet should also resemble the completion of the TAKS.

The next week, repeat the scenario - with 15-20 questions (or whatever is grade appropriate for your students). Again, the questions, answer sheets should look like the TAKS. They should begin, and end the session much as they would on TAKS test day.

The following week - repeat again - adding more questions. Repeat until you have arrived at the number of questions in the test.

It's a good way to practice concepts that may be included on the test, and to familiarize the students with the testing environment.

If the testing scenario is 'familiar' to the students, a lot of the nervousness goes away. It is one of the reasons that lawyers take witnesses into an empty courtroom and have them sit in the witness chair prior to testifying.

More test prep ideas to come.

Grins

Instructions to Teachers in the 1800's

- 1. Teachers will fill lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks each day.**
- 2. Each teacher will bring a scuttle of coal and a bucket of water for the day's use.**
- 3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs for the individual tastes of children.**
- 4. Men teachers may take one evening a week for courting purposes or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.**
- 5. After ten hours in the school the teacher should spend the remaining time reading the Bible and other good books.**
- 6. Women teachers who marry or engage in other unseemly conduct will be dismissed.**
- 7. Every teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reasons to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty.**
- 8. The teacher who performs his labors faithfully without fault for five years will be given an increase of 25 cents a week in his pay - providing the Board of Education approves.**



For more information - visit our website

www.gotolearn.org