



GURUS EDUCATION

October 2015 Newsletter

A NOTE FROM OUR C.E.O.

Dear Teachers,

Most of our Fall and year-round classes are in session now, so we should be getting used to our calendar pretty soon. If you have any concerns regarding that, do not hesitate to bring them to my attention.

There are certain characteristics in a company that makes it a growth champion: Research and Development, Globalization, Innovation, Pay a lot of attention to the Workforce and Operational Excellence. Our goal is to be a winner, so we emphasize on all of these items.

We have a team of Curriculum Consultants who spend a lot of their efforts in improving our books, curriculum, and lesson plans. If you have ideas and you would like to contribute, reach out to me. We are always looking for ideas on new programs, innovative ways to promote those skills in youth, and more ways to grow together.

Our teaching staff is the most important pillar of our organization. Gurus represent this company and I want you all to feel confident and fully equipped when you go out to teach. We understand you prefer webinar training, so we will have many such training sessions coming up and recorded seminars that you can refer back. We always look for ways to improve our operations. Our search of Ops Manager is on and we hope to have a person aboard soon. Until then, you can reach out to me.

To becoming a growth Champion,

Ritu



"I am a member of a team, and I rely on the team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual, is the ultimate champion."
- Mia Hamm



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UPDATES OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE:

Policies that effect your paycheck and schedule

From: Ashish

Mileage Reimbursement

If you travel over 25 miles one way to class, you'll be reimbursed for additional miles driven over 25 miles one way, at 56.5c/mile. For example, if you travel 30 miles to class one way, you will be reimbursed for \$5.65 for 10 miles (5 miles one way). This will be non-taxable reimbursement and would not appear on your 1099. You will have to send your mileage reimbursement form separately to ashish@guruseducation.com.

Pay Periods

Payroll deadline is 25th of the month. Any reimbursement forms must be sent before that date. Payroll period is 26th of last month to 25th of current month.

Class Reminders

Your mobile phone calendar should be automatically synced up with your classes' calendar. Let me know if your phone does not show your classes' schedule. You should also get a daily email of schedule of your classes for the day. You should also be receiving text reminders one hour before the class.

Sub Requests

If you require a substitute teacher, send request to sub@guruseducation.com.

When your sub request is processed, the class will be removed from your calendar. If the class is not removed from your calendar 24 hours before the class, call the operations manager to confirm.

It is your responsibility to see the request through. It is also your responsibility to send a lesson plan to your sub so he/she can pick up where you left off. Students need continuity in order to learn effectively. Let's communicate well with each other, for the sake of our students' education.



G U R U S E D U C A T I O N

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Debate Training Re-Cap

We had a mighty informational and insightful debate training webinar! Thank you Ilyssa and Heather for leading! Despite some technical difficulties at the start, we were able to cover a lot of useful information. Unfortunately, we were unable to record the webinar. We are very sorry about this!

Please look out for a powerpoint presentation covering the following:

- Constructive Speeches
 - Contentions
 - Connecting Back
 - Closing
- Transitioning from Public Speaking to Debate using Argumentative speeches
- 3 Major Forms of Debate:
 - Policy/Public Forum
 - Lincoln Douglas
 - Parliamentary
- Formats:
 - 1v1, 2v2, 3v3, ½ class v ½ class
 - “Four Corners” Debates
 - Point by Point Single Sentence
- Rebuttals:
 - ICE (Important, Critical, Easy)
 - Hierarchy of Refutation
 - Fallacies
- Debate Tournament Coaching
 - Differences from regular debate classes and how to teach them.



New Books and New Looks, Part 2

We hope you are enjoying our new books! As our Curriculum Consultants work hard to finish the revision of our collection, we are concurrently evaluating what has already been issued. Here are some tips for using the new books:

- Conduct a read-around and pause when there is a need for examples or definition of words. The books are meant to be interactive, so get the students involved!
- Cut out the discussion questions or suggested activities if you have a time shortage (they are optional). Teachers have said the sections are too long to get through if they don't do this. Suggest the questions and activities for home practice.
- Use the discussion questions and activities as review for the next class.
- Assign the review questions in the back of each section as homework.



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Wear Your Confidence!

From: Kim

After a vulnerable and engaging conversation about confidence, I assigned their homework assignment:

Next week, wear an outfit you feel confident in. It can be what you're wearing today, a new outfit you've always wanted to try, a costume, or an outfit from a special day. Be ready to explain your outfit and share a story of when you felt confident.

They seemed to walk out in a contemplative state. How would they represent themselves? What experience could they be proud of enough to share? I could see their wheels turning.

This assignment has been successful in 3 classes. Here's why:

- Students were able to identify similarities in their definitions of confidence and reasons for their outfit of choice.
- Students automatically spoke more confidently when they had to stand up for an image they created.
- A lot of dialogue was sparked. Many students wanted to connect and go deeper; commenting on messages on the clothes, discussing interests (ie sports and skateboarding), and challenging gender (girls wearing boys' clothes)
- The topic and discussion was relevant and impactful. They knew the activity would effect their everyday choices of dress.

Try it!

Teaming up with your TA

As the class sizes at our sites grow, we are pairing teachers up to take them on. It is vital to work as a team with your partner. Here are some tips:

- Meet 5 minutes earlier than the usual arrival time. Get on the same page about the day's goal (skill/concept you are teaching and how you will teach it). Go over the lesson plan.
 - Split the class into smaller groups. You can do this by:
 - Grade level
 - Returning students/New students
 - Mixed abilities
- Communicate grouping reasoning and method to parents. Parents of returning students will be concerned (they want their children to progress and be challenged).
- Take turns being the lead teacher. This will give each teacher an opportunity to develop his or her classroom management skills and confidence as a teacher.
 - Make room for ideas and feedback. Spend an extra 5 minutes after class to debrief and brainstorm ideas to improve for the next class.
 - Model good communication for students. Allow each other to share insight during class. Create a positive interaction so the students have an example of how to be with each other.

Are working with a partner teacher? What are some tips you have? Please share on the teacher Google group!