# Welcome to **Engaging Teaching Tools**

Students want to be involved in their learning. They are eager to be active and engaged. This little flip book will give you a way to check the engagement level of your students. It will also give you 50 practical, ready to use teaching ideas.

- The first part of the book helps you measure student involvement with a self evaluation tool called the Engagement Wheel. The Wheel can also guide your lesson planning to incorporate engaging activities.
- The second part of the book deals with different strategies to help promote your classroom's engagement; these include Questioning, Classroom Climate, Classroom Aids, Attitude Adjustment, and Parents.

By experimenting with the ideas in this book, you will find your teaching refreshed and your classroom more inviting. I hope you enjoy reading **Engaging Teaching Tools** in short time increments. It is a compilation of my own ideas as well as those of many other teachers in their classroom experiences. Some have already been suggested by other authors and will be cited as much as possible.

Additional materials and resources related to *Engaging Teaching Tools* can be found at www.corwin.com/teachingtools.

Enjoy! David Sladkey, dsladkey@gmail.com

## **Table of Contents**

## **Engagement Wheel**

- 1 Student Engagement Wheel
- 6 Have a Student Teach the Class Something
- 7 Partner/Group Work
- 8 Hands-On Technologies
- 9 Hands-On Activities
- 10 Choosing Students at Random
- 11 Make Your Students Laugh Out Loud
- 12 Make Time for Self-Reflection
- 13 Movement in Class
- 14 Show Your Students a Media Clip
- 15 Let Students Give Their Opinion



#### Questioning

- 17 Reverse Your Questions
- 18 Expect 100% Participation in all Class Activities.
- 19 Answer Questions in a Variety of Ways
- 20 Pause
- 21 "I Don't Know" Doesn't Fly
- 22 Stop Finishing Your Students' Sentences
- 23 Think Before You Use Sarcasm
- 24 Stop and Ask "What Comes Next?"

#### Classroom Climate

- 26 Greet Each Student Personally Everyday
- 27 Make a New Seating Chart Every 3 Weeks
- 28 Notice When a Student Is Absent
- 29 Admit Your Mistakes
- 30 Guest Introductions
- 31 Take ACTion
- 32 Private Discipline
- 33 New Partner "Get to Know You" Questions
- 34 Picking Roles in Partner/Group Work

### Classroom Activities

- 36 Importance Order
- 38 Circuits
- 40 Auditory Sentence Ordering
- 42 Easy Video Recorders
- 44 Left-Right Talking (Structured Partner Work)
- 45 Energizing Brain Breaks
- 46 Take a STAND

## Classroom Aids

- 48 Invest in a Timer
- 49 Music During Assessments and Work Time
- 50 Communicating With Your Students at Eve Level
- 51 Circular Teacher's Desk
- 52 Partner Desk Set-Up
- 53 Fidgety Students
- 54 Personal Mini White Boards

#### Attitude Adjustment

- 56 Don't Complain...Teach Them!57 Name 13 Virtues of a Teacher
- Thairie 15 virtues of a read
- 58 20 Years Later
- 59 Every Student Has a Story
- Name Five Things You Are Grateful For
- 81 Reflect on Each One of Your Students

#### **Parents**

- 63 Power of the Parent
- 64 Open Parent/Guardian Communications Early
- 65 Invite Parents/Guardians to Visit the Class

#### Extras

- 67 Book Discussion Questions
- 68 References
- 69 Acknowledgments