
Current Conditions

Your Aspiration Communication

“Students do not drop out of school because they are having too much fun.”
--Russell Quaglia

How do you hook students on learning? What’s the bait? Bugs? Blume? Binomials? Byzantine buildings? “Reel” learning occurs when a student is engaged and connected to the learning material and process. Yes, the ocean of entertainment options available to our students can seem overwhelming. But why drown? Educators have a responsibility to create interesting, dynamic, and relevant learning environments. Whether a lesson sinks or swims depends on how willing we are to get in, splash around, and have some fun with our students.



CONDITION OF THE MONTH: FUN & EXCITEMENT

Being so engaged in what you are doing that you lose track of space and time.

5 Strategies for Promoting Fun & Excitement

- ✓ Be passionate about what you teach.
- ✓ Get outside with your students more often.
- ✓ Allows students to share what they know.
- ✓ Connect learning to current events and real life situations.
- ✓ Provide students with choices and options for assignments and assessments.

[2006-2007 My Voice© Surveys](#)

For Consideration and Conversation

In the My Voice® Survey of middle school students, sixty-seven percent (67%) agreed with the statement “Teachers enjoy working with students,” while just 40% agreed that “Teachers make school an exciting place to learn.” Supporting these findings, 47% of students agreed with the statement “Teachers have fun at school.”

- ◆ How do you show your students that you are passionate about teaching?
- ◆ What makes a classroom an exciting learning environment for you and your students?

E-mail your Fun & Excitement stories, thoughts, or ideas to qisa@qisa.org

Aspirations in Action

Fun & Excitement involves being engaged and involved in all you do. Fun & Excitement occurs for adults and students when they lose track of time and space. For this month's Current Conditions we asked students, superintendents, teachers, and principals questions related to Fun & Excitement.

High School Students

"When do you have fun learning at school?"

"I have fun learning at school any time I am not being lectured to. Last week we created newspaper front pages based what was happening in the 1940's."

"I love when we discuss current events and how that affects me. We have been learning about oil prices and how that affects everything from the DVD's we buy to the food we eat. Our next project involves exploring ways we can reduce our own oil consumption."

"I wish art class would never end. I like being creative and I hope to study art after high school."

Superintendents

"When are you most engaged in your job?"

"My most engaging experiences at school are when I work with all members of the school community and hold productive, student-centered conversations. That doesn't happen often, but when it does, that is exciting for me."

"I will always be a classroom teacher. I am most engaged when I am able to work directly with students at any grade level."

"Believe it or not, I love working with numbers and figuring out the best way to bring our students a quality education. Some evenings I will become so involved with budgets that I forget I need to get some sleep. I have always loved math so I guess it makes sense that I find working with numbers engaging."

Teachers

"What do you most enjoy during the school day?"

"I enjoy working with students on any science experiment. I get as excited as my students even though I know the outcomes of the experiment!"

"Watching students read. When students are so immersed in a book that they forget to think about the end of a class period, so do I."

"I have the most fun at school when my students and I laugh together."

Elementary Students

"When do you have fun at school?"

"I always have fun at school... well not when we take tests. Tests scare me."

"I like special days when we do different things like field trips, projects, and all school events."

"I have fun with my friends at recess and lunch. We love to play and pretend."

Principals

"When do you lose track of time and space?"

"I lose track of time whenever I am meeting with students. I love hearing their ideas and thoughts."

"I wish I had more time to write. When I write I not only lose track of time and space, but also reduce my stress!"

"I love watching my students play sports, do drama, anything outside of the classroom. During these moments I marvel at the talents our students possess."