

## **Tips and Tricks for the First Week of School**

- Stand at the door of your classroom and greet each student as they walk in and as they leave.
- Try noticing something unique about your more difficult students. Every day or so, simply say: "I noticed that you really like \_\_\_\_\_. Just wanted you to know that I noticed that". Make sure it's something about them personally and not their behavior.
- Try limiting the rules in your classroom to 1 or 2 general ones. Such as: "Feel free to make your own choices in here as long as it doesn't cause a problem for anyone else".
- Let the kids know times during the day which you will be free to discuss issues with them. "I argue at 12:00 and 3:50 each day. Feel free to come by at one of those times."
- Begin each day at 8:20 with something fun, important or interesting that they will not want to miss. It need not take up more than 5 minutes but will get their attention.
- Don't try to handle difficult behavioral situations during class. Instead try saying: "I'm going to have to do something about that, but not now, I'm teaching. I'll think about it and get back to you. Try not to worry about it in the mean time."
- Have a positive attitude. It just might be contagious!