

TAKING HOME THE BEACON



Issue 5 June 2017

TOP 10 ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHERS DURING SUMMER VACATION

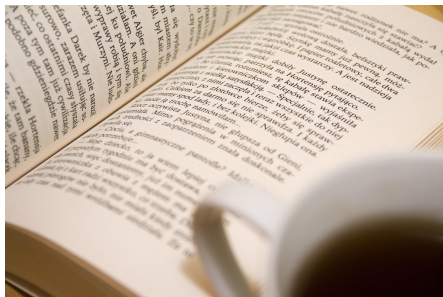
BY MONA YACQUB

Summer vacation is a time for teachers to recharge and refocus as they prepare for another group of students. Here are ten to do's that teachers can work on during this summer vacation.

1) Get Away From It All

A teacher must be "on" every day of the school year. In fact, as a teacher you often find it necessary to be "on" even outside of the school setting. It is essential to take the summer vacation and do something away from school.

Why don't you check out: <http://www.visit-kuwait.com/> to see the things you can do and the places you can visit in Kuwait during summer vacation if you did not get the chance to do so on the weekends.



2) Try Something New

Expand your horizons. Take up a hobby or enroll in a course away from your teaching subject matter. You will be surprised how this can enhance your teaching in the coming year. Your new interest may be the thing that connects with one of your new students.

Check out:

<http://248am.com/mark/interesting/a-visit-to-pro-hobbies/> if you want to practice your favorite hobby or to watch new and unique events happening in Kuwait!

3) Do Something Just for Yourself

Get a massage. Go to the beach. Go on a cruise. Do something to pamper and take care of yourself. Taking care of body, mind, and soul is so important to having a fulfilling life and will help you recharge and restart for next year. If you would like to arrange or to book a trip, you truly need to visit this website:

<http://www.kptc.com.kw/Default.aspx>

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4) Reflect on Last Year's Teaching Experiences

Think back over the previous year and identify your successes and your challenges. While you should spend some time thinking about both, concentrate on the successes. You will have greater success improving upon what you do well than focusing on what you did poorly. We highly recommend that you read one of the best-selling books: Teach, Reflect, Learn: Building Your Capacity for Success in the Classroom. For more details about the book, click on the link:

<http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Books/Overview/Teach-Reflect-Learn.aspx>

5) Be Informed About Your Profession

Read the news and know what is happening within education. Today's legislative acts could mean a big change in tomorrow's classroom environment. If you are so inclined, get involved. Get to know the latest news about the teaching profession by visiting the website below:

<http://www.edweek.org/tm/?intc=main-topnav>

6) Maintain Your Expertise

You can always learn more about the topic you teach. Check out the latest publications. You might find the seed for an excellent new lesson. **Edivate** is a great resource, which can help with that.

7) Choose a Few Lessons to Improve

Pick 3-5 lessons that you feel need improvement. Maybe they just need enhancing external materials or maybe they just need to be scrapped and rewritten. Spend a week rewriting and rethinking these lesson plans. Again, you can log in to **Edivate** using your account and search for the topic you are working on and you will see many video/audio/additional resources that will help to unleash your creativity!

8) Assess Your Classroom Procedures

Do you have an effective tardy policy? What about your late work policy? Look at these and other classroom procedures to see where you can increase your effectiveness and decrease time off task. Take a closer look how the effective classroom looks like by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/characteristics-of-an-effective-classroom/>

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9) Inspire Yourself

Spend some quality time with a child, your own or someone else's. Read about famous educators and inspirational leaders. Check out these [inspirational books](#) and [inspirational movies](#) .I would like to add a great movie based on a real story where you can see how the inspiration and the hard work of the teacher with his students had changed their lives to the best . You can watch the trailer of McFarland on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74eJaVQFybl> Remember why you got into this profession to begin with.

10) Take a Colleague to Lunch

It is better to give than to receive. As the school year approaches, teachers need to know how much they are appreciated. Think of a fellow teacher who inspires you and let them know how important they are to students and to you. You can choose among the 10 best restaurants in Kuwait City for 2017, which were selected by Tripadvisor:
https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g294003-Kuwait_City.html



The original article:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/during-summer-vacation-8342>

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: KATHARINE MCLAUGHIN-WINGERT

BY LANA HALLAL

My name is Katharine McLaughin-Wingert and I am from Niagara Falls, Canada. Since I was little, I have always wanted to be a teacher and to travel the world. So, it is no surprise that I find myself in a job where I get to do both. Having taught and lived in Tokyo for six years, I was able to travel throughout Asia. Now that I am in my fourth of teaching in Kuwait, I am able to continue my love of travel on my off time. Some of the countries that I have traveled to include Singapore, Thailand, Oman, Istanbul, UAE, Scotland and Hong Kong.

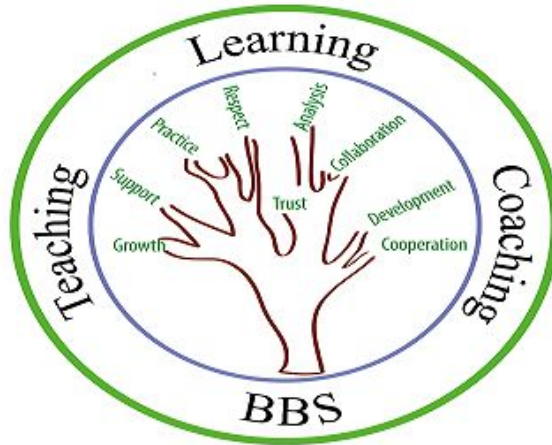
During my first two years at BBS, I completed my Masters' in Leadership. BBS is supportive of its' teachers and helps them to grow, allowing teachers to take the time for PD. Subsequently, I was fortunate enough to travel to both Qatar and Istanbul to attend NESA. BBS offers teachers a great opportunity to grow, learn and to excel.



In the past few years, I have incorporated Tribes in my classroom. This has helped with inclusion amongst my students. They are able to freely share ideas in a safe environment. As a teacher, I believe that students should feel safe in sharing their ideas, as this will help them to grow as a learner. They know that it is alright to make a mistake and to try again. Discovering Gifts in Middle School: Learning in a Caring Culture Called Tribes is a wonderful addition to any teacher's classroom library. There are great ideas and resources that can be incorporated into the classroom.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: KATHARINE MCLAUGHIN-WINGERT

My personal philosophy is that as a teacher, I should be lifelong learner. I am usually enrolled in some type of course or other. This allows me to share my triumphs and my defeats with my students. It also helps them to know that it is okay to be scared to try something new, and that the reward at the end outweighs the fear. At this time in my life, I have just started learning to scuba dive. Who knows what I'll try next, but I am sure that my next adventure is just around the corner.



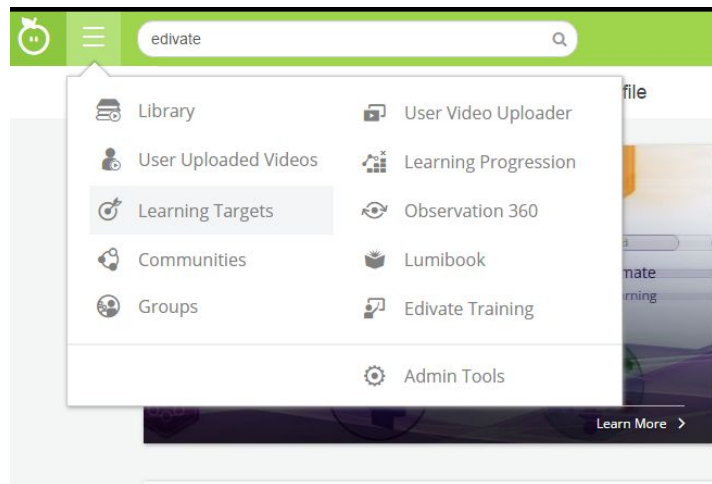
EDIVATE UPDATE: MICRO-CREDENTIALS

BY TAHANI HASHEM

With the summer holiday just around the corner, it's always positive to keep our teaching/profession muscles from atrophying over the summer. You may plan a few hours for your professional development. Edivate Micro-Credentials provides an opportunity for educators to engage in rigorous professional learning. Edivate Micro-credentials also allows educators who have not already achieved mastery of a concept to participate in learning activities designed to advance their knowledge.

How to access Micro-Credentials?

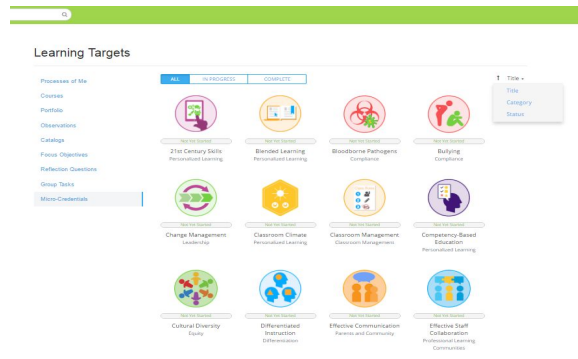
Sign in to **edivate** and then click on the **menu bar** and then on **Learning Targets**.



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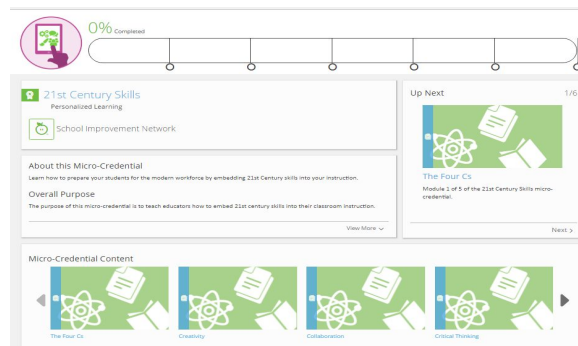
Click on **Micro-Credentials**. On this page, you will see a list of all micro-credentials available to you.



Click the **Micro-Credential badge** to show the details of the micro-credential.

In the **Micro-Credential Content** area, you'll find video and course resources to help you learn the skills you'll need to complete the micro-credential.

As you complete each learning activity, **the progress bar** will update to display your progress, and the **"Up Next"** card will guide you to your next activity.



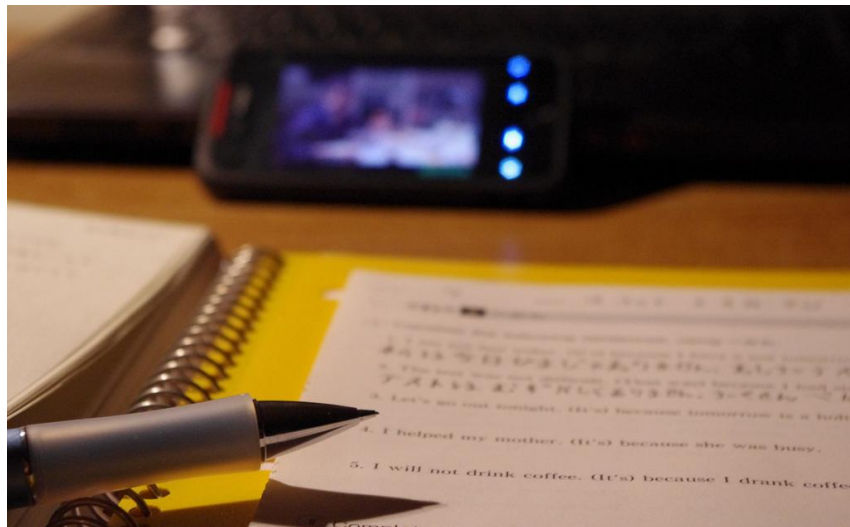
CURRICULUM

BY CAROL ALAWADI

Alternatives To Homework: A Chart For Teachers

From [Fires in the Mind](#) by Kathleen Cushman

I ran across this “alternative to homework” chart put together from a student perspective which more actively engages the students. Why not try some of these suggestions the next time you need to assign homework? You’ll find the chart on the next page.



The situation	Instead of THIS homework	Try THIS!	When and where
You introduced new mat'l to us	Assigning a question set to help us remember the mat'l	Ask US to think up a homework task that follows up on this class. What would it look like? Why are WE assigning it?	Model this in class, then have US come with ideas. Use OUR best ideas as subsequent assignments
You want us to read an article before a class discussion	Making us answer questions to prove that we've read it	Ask us to write down 2 or 3 questions WE have after reading it	We can text or email you the questions before discussing the article in class
You want to see if we understand a key concept (e.g., literary irony; checks + balances in gov't; the turn of seasons)	Making us complete a worksheet	Ask us to demonstrate the concept for the class in small groups, using any medium we choose (drama, art, writing, games)	Not a final assm't but a quick activity in class so we can review the concept together and you can tell if we understand
You have demonstrated a math procedure and want us to see how it applies in various situations	Assigning us 10 word problems that involve this procedure	Ask small groups to choose ONE word problem from your examples to solve and present to the class	In class, so you can coach us and clarify any confusion as we work through the problem
You want us to memorize facts (vocab lists; elements in the Periodic Table; dates in history)	Handing out a list that we will be tested on later	Ask each of us to choose ONE item on the list, then create and share with class a memorization trick (e.g., music, acronym, visual cue, gesture) that works for US	In class or outside school, by ourselves or in a small group
You want us to remember what you taught us last month	Assigning a review sheet at the end of the unit	Give us frequent SHORT pop quizzes about earlier material, go over it with us right afterwards, but don't count the grade	In class, so every few days you can see and address what we have forgotten

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BY LYNDA ABDUL RAHEEM

Dear Teachers,

It won't be long before you are all unwinding on a well-deserved summer vacation. It is a time to relax, recharge and enjoy family and friends. Whether you are spending time inside or outside of Kuwait, you will also have some down time with nothing to do. You might even get bored. If this happens remember you can go ahead and start earning PD points on your own to use for next year. Read some articles , read [some](#) books. Do some free webinars, check out ASCD, Edutopia, Education Weekly. Look at Edivate, You Tube, Ted Talks, Moocs. All free, at your own pace, you can deepen your knowledge away from the day to day demands of the classroom. Take the time to process new ideas, be creative, ponder new and exciting ways to engage children.

Yes, we could sit home and do nothing but watch TV for 2 months, but in reality, most of you won't. This is because you are teachers. You don't just have a job, you are on a mission to make a difference in the life of a child. Ideas pop into your head all the time about how to be the best teacher you can be. If you help one child love learning, overcome the fear of math, or become a better friend to his classmates, you are an amazing success!

A pre-invasion student said to [me](#) recently, "You have no idea how much a teacher can affect the life of her students." "I have been given so many gifts, from self-confidence and knowledge to creativity and determination by teachers from this school." "I loved my teachers." "I feel so lucky."

So enjoy your summer, play, laugh, relax and if you find time, keep learning. Be safe!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER: TIPS FOR AN INDEPENDENT LEARNER

BY FATOMA AL-SUWAITI

Take Time to Teach

Taking time to train toddlers on "grown up" tasks builds their sense of independence, says Amy McCready, founder of Positive Parenting Solutions. "Identify one new task per week that your child could do with some training. Divide the task into steps and train the child on how to do it -- then make it 'his job.' These tasks may seem simple to us, but they help our kids develop a sense of confidence." For example, younger toddlers can learn how to clean up their play area and put dirty clothes in the hamper, while older kids can help clear the dinner table and make their beds.

Praise Their Efforts

Even if the end result isn't stellar, let your little one know that you appreciate his hard work -- and encourage him to keep trying, says Dr. Frances Walfish, a child and parent psychotherapist and author of *The Self-Aware Parent*.

Give Them Choices

Part of being independent is being able to make decisions for yourself, so let your toddler make some of his own choices throughout the day. "Narrow down the options first: 'Would you like peanut butter and jelly or macaroni and cheese for lunch?' They're making the final decision, but you're still in control."

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Hold Back the Help

"Never do for a child what he can do for himself," says Michelle La Rowe, a former nanny and author of *A Mom's Ultimate Book of Lists*. Allow your toddler to tie his shoes, pour his own cereal, and put on his coat in the morning (if he can't zip it on his own, start it off for him and then let him finish the job). Running low on time? Set the alarm clock for 15 minutes earlier so you can give your child the extra time he needs to complete his tasks.

Provide a Toddler-Friendly Environment

Create opportunities for your toddler to be independent by placing things at her level. Put bowls, snacks, cups, etc., on the lowest shelf so she can serve herself without needing help.

Provide Direction when Needed

instead of telling children what to do, have them tell you what they are going to do -- it gives them ownership of the challenge. Of course, if they do need some suggestions or help on how to complete a task.

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Find Positive in the Negative

Instead of seeing mistakes as a failure, look at them as an opportunity for your child to learn something new, says Dr. Sam Goldstein, coauthor of *Raising a Self-Disciplined Child*. "You don't want them to be afraid of making mistakes -- they need to realize it is a part of life. say something like, 'Let's try to do that part again and see if we can make it work.' "

Give Up on Perfect

If you go in to improve everything your toddler has done, it will damage her self-esteem -- and most likely deter her from doing that particular task in the future.

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<http://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/development/social/teaching-toddler-independence/?slideId=50644>

AROUND BBS

BY AARON SHELBY



The BBS community celebrates the KG2 graduates. Yay!



The Jabriya campus figures out who stole the cookies from the cookie jar during a recent music integration workshop!



The grade 8 spelling bee champions take a moment for a photograph

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Website: tlcbbs.com

Twitter: [@tlcbbs](https://twitter.com/tlcbbs)

Edivate: edivate.com

- [BBS Teaching and Learning Group](#)

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