**What Is Effective Teaching?**

**Simple Concepts for Teachers to Improve Student Performances**

1. **Develop a Help Seeking Environment- Work with your students to be sure that they feel you are approachable and that they can seek help for academics and personal assistance. A positive class climate can help to develop mutual respect for all learners.**
2. **Make Concepts Relevant -Relate learning to real life experiences or to previous student learning. Ask students how they could use this information in real life. Share personal experiences as they may relate to the learning.**
3. **Connect Factual Learning with Reading and Writing Daily- Use logs, journals, records, or prompts to enable students to recreate learning in their own words. Teachers can determine if students understand learning through the reading of written student responses.**
4. **Break Down Learning into Parts to Improve Memory- Divide lessons into 15-minute segments. Start with 15 minutes for instruction, 15 minutes of application and then 15 minutes for writing, reviewing and applying the learning.**
5. **Use Graphics, Diagrams and Drawings as Visuals to Explain and Reinforce Concepts- Visuals help to link learning to both sides of the brain. Ask students to draw or develop their own graphic organizers to help with learning.**
6. **Repeat Key Concepts Regularly-Formulas, procedures, vocabulary that are to foundations for future learning should be revisited every few weeks. Develop a word wall to post vocabulary throughout the year. Students journals and logs enable students to write in key concepts and review them on a regular basis.**
7. **Take Time to Activate Previous Knowledge- Provide time for students to recall concepts from the past in order to build on this knowledge. Teacher questioning, brainstorming and verbal interaction can help students to remember learning. Using a KWHL graphic can help students to think about what they already KNOW, what they WANT to know about the subject and How they will find out that knowledge and what they LEARNED.**
8. **Have Students Teach, Share and Model Learning For Each Other- Research has shown that students will retain 95% of the information they teach to someone else.**
9. **Challenge Students Through the Use of Higher-Level Questions and Written Explanations. These require more time to answer than standard lower-level problems or simple math computation. Students should be given this type of question daily to challenge thinking and improve memory. Challenging students using problem solving will help to make them critical thinkers.**