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Falls City High School
Business Teacher-24 Years

I. Enrollment Numbers

- A. Accounting I – 44 Students
 - 1. 30 Sophomores, 10 Juniors, 4 Seniors
 - 2. 23 Females, 21 Males
- B. Accounting II – 11 Students
 - 1. 8 Juniors, 3 Seniors
 - 2. 5 Females, 6 Males

II. Course Offerings

- A. Large number of sophomores every year
 - 1. Schedule—no history requirement for this year
 - 2. No prerequisite—do not require them to have any type of Algebra
- B. Lower number of juniors and seniors
 - 1. Scheduling conflicts due to college classes
 - 2. Other conflicts—one section of the class offered only for other classes

III. Teaching Philosophy

- A. Explain. Demonstrate. Explain again
 - 1. My ESU Goal for the year...use local businesses and throw out names in book
 - 2. Simple example...make chart of accounts for a local business
- B. Lots of board work and overhead examples
- C. Paper and pencil
- D. No technology. (I know this is controversial)
- E. Do work together problems..check to see if students are filling out problem
 - 1. Example to follow while doing homework
 - 2. Less cheating if they know how to do the homework
- F. Hand out different versions of tests and homework (if needed)
- G. No homework for the weekends. Friday assignments should be done in class
 - 1. Students love this philosophy
 - 2. Typically have an assignment everyday. Again, Friday is done in class
- H. Don't worry about covering the same amount of material each year
 - 1. Some years I get through 15 chapters, other years 18 chapters
 - 2. Quantity will never beat quality when it comes to content understanding

IV. Flexibility

- A. Look at students in class and compare with the school schedule
 - 1. Change places with student. What time will they get home from school activities?
 - a. Is homework a reasonable length? If not give an extra day before it is due
 - b. Lecture 2 days and assign no homework during that time if events are heavy
 - 2. Allow time for students to work in class...so they have opportunities to ask questions
- B. Remember to ask students what they didn't understand. Reteach if necessary

V. Enrollment Strategies

- A. 8th Grade Orientation---promote my classes
- B. Freshman Information Technology Class
 - 1. I teach all freshman...encourage to take Accounting as a sophomore
 - 2. Reputation...word of mouth

Final Thoughts

I find I have the most success when I involve my students in decision-making, especially in my Accounting II classes. They know they are going to have to do the work, so I don't struggle with them not doing homework. Ask your students what are realistic deadlines. Your good students will be honest.

Having two high school children myself, I am very conscious of how busy and involved some students are in high school. You will never have a perfect schedule but be realistic. I have 24 students in my last period class this year, 19 are involved in athletics. If I have three-fourths of my class gone in the evening for a sporting event I should not have the expectation that a large amount of homework will get done. The students will appreciate it if homework is not "piled" on for the evening. Work with students not against them.