

A Tip, a Tool, and a Toast

Project Portal #3

A Tip: Begin the New Year with a new outlook that includes asking for more!

By that we mean:

- Ask for more help, if designing instruction for differentiation is tough.
- Ask for more info or support if a particular student's needs have you stymied. (That happens to all of us at times... hence the value in collaboration!)
- Ask yourself more often, "How am I checking out what I do"?
- Ask for someone to sit in on a lesson - and feel more free to make mistakes or let "real" day to day routines occur - since that's the only way we get "real" feedback, supports or ideas!
- Ask students for more ideas on what would help them engage in learning or complete activities. Then, insert those ideas into standards based instruction.
- More frequently brainstorm, share and seek feedback in general (from your principal, colleagues, or jdittmar@dcc-cde.ca.gov). Then give yourself more pats on the back - for every new step in inquiry or evidence based practice you try!

A Tool(s): <http://www.teachertools.org/index.html> is an early teacher made website that is no longer kept up, but archives many lessons, activities, or games you may find useful. Since it's not currently "trending" it may be a new "tool" to some and provide practical application resources. *As with all websites, the Diagnostic Center is not responsible for, nor directing you to implement any particular items, links or statements of this or any website.* Using your own educational judgment, teacher ratings and comments on the site, however, you may find helpful tools you'd like! Beyond games, lessons, organization, communication or data, this site provides links to dozens of sites like www.technology.com (a current site with other tools), www.idonline.org or <http://www.teachertools.org/index.html> (both sources of information and strategies for general or special education, inclusion, literacy and content teaching).

A TOAST: *Your return for the New Year includes an actual "toast" to each of you!* Enjoy this (educationally appropriate) "warm toast" celebrating each one's willingness to increase evidence based practice, self-evaluate, learn from each other and leap into new ventures like Universal Design! Congrats! And... here's to 2016!