



Mr. Barge's Instructional Tip of the Week! – High Expectations

We're off to a great start! I want to commend, and thank, the exceptional faculty and staff of Edward R. Murrow High School for the **CARE** that they provided to the over 3,700 students that entered our building last week. Thanks to your patience, your guidance, and your **CARE**, our incoming students were able to navigate the hallways, find their classes and feel more comfortable in their community. In fact, in a conversation with one of our 9th graders who looked a bit overwhelmed, and exhausted, by J-Band on Thursday, she said to a staff member, "Boy this place is big but the people here are so nice. It made it less stressful." As we enter our first full week of instruction, let's keep that positive energy up by establishing **high expectations** in our classrooms.

As teachers, we always strive to help all students meet their greatest potential. By now, many of you have started to analyze your students' data as well as read through students' IEPs to assist you with your planning. When analyzing your data, please keep in mind that while you may have students who have struggled in the past, it is important that you keep those expectations high and build in the supports that will help all students meet those high expectations.

In addition to our positive words of encouragement and careful planning that incorporates rigorous and engaging activities (as well as the supports needed) to promote high expectations in the classroom, it is important that we always remember that we have a captive audience in the classroom. Our founding principal, Mr. Saul Bruckner, once told me during my first year teaching, "Mr. Barge, remember that you are a role model for your students' emulation. If you put your best foot forward for each lesson, your students will do the same." From that point on, I understood the importance of cultivating the habit of hard work, preparation, and high expectations in the classroom.

I wish you all a productive and meaningful semester and I look forward to visiting your classrooms to see the **CARE** that you provide each day to prepare our students for **COLLEGE**, **CAREER** and **LIFE**. And so I leave you with the inspiring words from a six-year-old that helps to make this "Instructional Tip of the Week" relevant - "My teacher thought I was smarter than I was - so I was."

Have a **FANTABULOUS** semester!

... because at Edward R. Murrow High School, we **CARE** about our students!