



Mr. Barge's Instructional Tip of the Week! – Utilize Resources

We started off the school year with the statement, **“To get to ALL, we have to focus on EACH.”** In our efforts to know each student well, we utilize the daily encounters and interactions that we have with our students to plan accordingly. However, I have always found that we are fortunate to have resources that are both practical and accessible that can assist us in focusing on each student.

During the first few days of the semester, we spend the much needed time checking our rosters and identifying our students with IEPs and reading through each document before we ever meet our students. This certainly helps in the early days of planning. However, once we start the process of knowing each of our students well, it is important that we continue to refer to those resources in these efforts. Take another glance at your students' IEPs, especially the “Management Needs” section. Such information has been collectively gathered by a team of stakeholders who strategically identified strategies that purposefully focus on student success. I recall sitting with a few staff members who were talking about a student who struggled during his first few years at Murrow but eventually got back on track. Everyone at the table knew the student well from their interactions with him in their classrooms and they knew his trials and tribulations. Then we looked at the student's “Management Needs” section of his IEP and everyone at the table said, “Absolutely, that definitely makes sense” or “That would 100% help him in class.” Another colleague stated, “I wish I had implemented those strategies in class, that would have made a world of difference.”

In addition to the invaluable information that is found in a student's IEP, we have an exceptional staff that may have some important information and/or guidance that could assist you. This includes the student's other subject class teachers that may have encountered useful strategies as well as the student's guidance counselor who would also have some useful information about students. Our deans and paraprofessionals can also be wonderful resources as well. If your student is an English Language Learner who is struggling, reach out to Ms. Gramegna (AP World Languages and ESL) or Ms. Iervasi (ESL Coordinator) who can provide you with some strategies, or guidance, that can assist.

There are numerous resources readily available to help you support our students. Whether it be important documents such as a student's IEP, or fellow teachers, deans, guidance counselors, paraprofessionals and support staff, please try to utilize the resources available to you in our efforts to know each student well and provide the **CARE** that each student needs and deserves. Additionally, there are wonderful professional learning opportunities available through Brooklyn South, UFT and outside professional learning agencies that can also be of assistance.

For more information about professional learning opportunities, teaching resources such as videos, articles, and strategies, please visit the Murrow **CARE** Corner (murrowcarecorner.com) or see our Peer Collaborative Teacher, Ms. Martone.

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