

## Things To Do During the Summer

*There is a saying that goes, “The best thing about teaching is June, July, and August.” There is some truth to that. Summer is a great time to rest, reflect, and prepare for the new year. After more than 25 years I still think teaching is the best profession in the world. What other job allows you a fresh start each year?*

1. Get familiar with your curriculum. Summer may be the only uninterrupted time you will have all year. Doing this in the summer will definitely help reduce your first year teacher stress.
2. Travel. If possible go to someplace that can be related to what you teach. Students love to hear anecdotes about your experiences.
3. Shop for comfortable shoes. Those strappy little sandals may be cute, but try walking and standing in them for 6+ hours a day.
4. Go to workshops or conferences. During the summer you have the time to reflect on what you have learned, and you will be ready to put what you learned into practice.
5. Investigate educational websites. This can be very time consuming but well worth the effort.
6. Read professional journals and subscribe to at least one. It is so important to keep current.
7. Order holiday attire. You think you wouldn't be caught dead in a reindeer tie or a jack-o-lantern shirt ... trust me you will. As I write this I am wearing a snowflake shirt and a Santa necklace.
8. Meet with the teachers who will be on your grade level or department. They can be a great resource.
9. Spend time with your friends. You will need the memories to get you through those long nights and weekends while you are grading term papers and writing report cards.
10. Rest! You are about to enter the most exciting, exhausting, and challenging experience of your life.

*No other profession allows an individual to have such an impact on the lives of others. Teaching gives you the chance to positively affect the lives of students, parents, and colleagues in a way that you will be remembered long after the lesson of the day is forgotten.*

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