Cult of Inspiration in the Classroom
TC PARKER CST, FAST
GWINNETT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Objectives

Learn Types of Creativity
Convergent VS Divergent in the Classroom

Discover Classroom Collaboration
Classroom Projects with examples:
  - Group Projects
  - Buddy Testing

Practicing work-Life Balance to Recognize Inspiration
Inspiration comes in many forms:
  - Colleagues
  - Family
  - Hobbies
Why?

The Reason
- Motivation

The Process
- Creativity
The Science

Hippocampus
  Memory - facts, experiences
Frontal Cortex
  Working memory
Basal Ganglia
  Memory of skills (brushing teeth, riding a bike)
White Matter
  Connects the dots
How Creative People Think:
The Tale of Jons Stick

Convergent

Divergent
The Process

Working Memory
Short-Term holding, processing and manipulation of information.
Examples - Adding up prices when grocery shopping.

Abstract Thought
Symbolism and Hypothetical thought.
Example - Humor (Comedians)

Cognitive Flexibility
Adapt our responses and behavior in response to our environment.
Example - Walking in someone's shoes.
Emphasize Creativity in the Classroom

Anecdotes
Tell stories for associative reasons.

Intentional
Be intentional in your communications. Eye Contact! Be Present!

Take A Break
Complex matters can be better handled through unconscious thought. "Sleep on it"
Creativity in the Classroom Enhances:

Problem Solving  Creative Thinking  Retention of Information  Deeper Comprehension  Connections Across Multiple Areas  Test Taking Skills
Social Aspects

- Collaboration Sparks Creativity
  - Group Projects
  - Buddy Testing
Group Projects

- Mock Surgery Project
- Positioning Project
Group Testing or Buddy Testing

- Great discussions evolve from group testing.
  - 1st Major Test of the semester.
  - More difficult concept tests.
- Buddy testing can help test-takers with anxiety.
  - Be intentional in the pairing.
    - Place good test-takers with less confident test-takers.
Colleague Ideas

Jeff White- Biology

"Inspirational Quotes of the Day"
https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/inspirational
https://parade.com/973277/jesicasager/inspirational-quotes/
https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/inspirational-quotes

Patricia Whitley-Business

"SMART GOALS"
"I have the students write 4 index cards at the beginning of the semester and turn them in. I review them at intervals throughout the semester."
"It is important to teach the habit of goal-setting for not just education but for life"

Stefany Dixon- Vet Tech

"2nd year students are recognized on their birthdays with a certificate for free bonus points and words of encouragement. The goal is to show them that we care about them and to motivate them"
More Colleague Ideas:

Umber Hanief-English

“In my experience, weaving in my own story into class lessons serves as motivation and inspiration (I’d like to think). I don’t think I waste class time, but I tell lots of stories to get the students’ attention and also to help make our lessons relevant/relatable.”

Breanna Brooks-Rad Tech

“When I visit students at clinic I make sure I talk to the techs and patients while the student is around me. I think it inspires the student to not be so timid and to see how easy it can be to have social interaction amongst others.”

Margaret Long-Dean of Ed

I try to teach my students about metacognition (thinking about their thinking) and to get them to reflect upon what they know and what they don’t know. I have quizzes during class (sometimes 1, sometimes 2-3) for them to diagnose what they need to study. I try to have them understand that their learning and reviewing the material is their responsibility but I am here to help them as best I can! They get instant feedback from every class so they know exactly where their strengths and weaknesses are. I also give them index cards to give me feedback, and to also write what they understand and what they’re still confused about.
Great teachers have high expectations for their students, but even higher expectations for themselves.

Todd Whitaker
What Inspires Me:

Students

Other Teachers

AST
State Assembly
National Committees
TCSG
FAMILY - ALWAYS
HOBBIES ➔ Work/Life Balance

Cooking

Gardening

Date Nights
Let's Get Your Ideas!
Work Cited

- https://asana.com/resources/convergent-vs-divergent
- https://now.northropgrumman.com/where-is-creativity-in-the-brain/
- https://www.edutopia.org