

from the sideline...

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Charles Schulz Philosophy

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip. You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read this straight through, and you'll get the point.

- *Name the five wealthiest people in the world.*
- *Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.*
- *Name the last five winners of the Miss America.*
- *Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.*
- *Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.*
- *Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.*

How did you do?

The point is; none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

- *List five teachers who aided your journey through school.*
- *Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.*
- *Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.*
- *Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.*
- *Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.*

Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

My apologies go out to Jordan O'Connell (I misspelled his name last week) who is receiving the Chick Evans scholarship to the University of Michigan not to Chick Young scholarship.

Congratulations to Renee DeWindt for being named to the State of Michigan Food Policy Committee representing K-12 schools. This has been in the works for a few months and Renee found out today of her appointment. Also, on Tuesday of next week we sadly say good bye to Deb Prachar who is retiring from the district on February 1st. Deb has worked for the district for 15 years in our food service area and she was also a bus aide. We wish Deb a happy and restful retirement.

From Pete Sandman: I wanted to thank you and the school for your early response to our campaign to get items to Devin Gokey and his fellow soldiers in Afghanistan - it has been a great response from the school, Zim's baseball team, Missy Pierce's first graders, the Sons of the American Legion, and the churches. We have sent 11 boxes out already and are in the process sending 10 more this week to his base, which is in one of the most dangerous places in the world. They received a foot of snow there yesterday, and they're flying in mail and supplies. Trinity Lutheran is picking up the \$140 to mail this group of ten boxes out. It costs \$13.95 a box priority mail to an APO address.

INSTRUCTIONAL INGREDIENTS

Assign test-taking for homework?

Students need to study for a test. But new research on the brain shows that one of the best ways for students to master information is by taking a test.

The technique called "retrieval practice" uses testing not to assess what students know, but to help them master and retain a body of knowledge.

Research shows that every time students call up or retrieve, information from their brains, they not only reinforce that information, but they also make it more long-lasting.

So when you assign students to learn math facts, have them spend some time on a self-quiz. Give them 10 short questions. Have them work the problems, and then check their own answers.

Use the same technique when you assign spelling or vocabulary words. One study found that students who used the self-testing method remembered 80 percent of the vocabulary words. Those who used more traditional study methods recalled only about half the words.

It turns out that testing doesn't just measure what students have learned. It actually changes what students learn--and how well they absorb and retain it.

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'Red, white & blue' helps students organize research

Helping middle school students learn to organize their research is a challenge. Helping students with learning disabilities can be even harder.

To help them organize the process of research and writing, give each student a set of index cards in three colors:

- Red (or pink) cards are for research questions. Help students

develop the big question they want to answer in their paper. As they continue to do research, they will add other questions: Why did that happen? What was the result?

- White cards are for answers to the research questions. Students can use a variety of sources, including books, articles, newspapers and personal interviews. They should have at least two sources for each research question.
- Blue cards are for sources. These should correspond to the research on their white cards.

When it's time to write the paper, have students lay out the cards in a logical order (numbering them helps). They should start with the red cards, and then arrange the white cards beneath them. At the end, they should alphabetize the blue cards. The paper will be logical and they will stay organized.

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