

Utilizing *The Dock for Learning* as Teacher Preparation for the School Year

COVID-19 may have caused the cancellation of large gatherings of teachers, but it hasn't cancelled the creative abilities of teachers to adapt to new circumstances and prepare in other ways. We offer the following content as one option for teachers, principals, and school boards to consider when planning for teacher orientation in their schools and communities.

Since many teachers had planned to take several days or a week to attend an event, we suggest that teachers dedicate several days in their own communities to preparation for the school year. The Dock (<https://thedockforlearning.org>) offers thousands of recordings and documents that could provide a starting point for teacher orientation. The lists on the following pages offer some of the best content in various categories.

We encourage teachers to take a group approach to this preparation. Teachers prepare best in collaboration, and the conversation that happens in a group is one of the significant benefits of a large gathering. While this year it may not be possible to gather with hundreds of other teachers, smaller groups could gather and reap many of the same rewards. Perhaps all the teachers from a school could gather for one or two days of focused preparation. If it is not possible to gather with teachers from the same school, perhaps teachers who live in the same geographic area could gather. Groups could plan to eat lunch together to maximize the benefit.

School boards who planned to send their teachers to an event could ask their teachers to devote several days to this sort of development. A school board or principal could enable that gathering by identifying a place and time, or by providing lunch or supper for the teaching staff.

Whether the teacher listens to content alone or with a group, there are ways to maximize the learning that occurs. Here are some ideas to try after listening to a session:

- Think together about ways in which you're already applying the teaching strategies described.
- Talk about ways you could strengthen your practices and methods.
- Choose one or two new things you're going to try.
- Choose a core subject (math, reading, etc.) you're going to focus on teaching extra well this year.

We offer this suggested schedule as a starting point for groups to plan their time together.

Sample Daily Schedule

All Teachers Together

Listen to one segment of a multi-session series

- Give time for discussion
- Series to Consider:
 - Becoming an Effective Teacher (Anthony Hurst)
 - Texts for Teachers (Steven Brubaker)
 - Biblical Integration (Daniel Rutt)
 - Series options in the lists below are marked with an asterisk*.

Breakout 1

Split into grade level groups to watch or listen.

- Choose content from Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary/Middle School, or High School

All Teachers Together

Discuss the content experienced so far.

- What are your take-aways and applications?
- What are your lingering questions?
Listen Together
- Consider listening to a presentation on Learning Difficulties, Class Culture, or Classroom Management.

Eat a meal together.

New and less experienced teachers could round out their preparation by listening to at least one presentation from each of the following categories: learning difficulties, classroom management, and class culture. In addition, they should take in as much content as possible from the most relevant grade level section to their teaching position. The grade level sections below are Lower Elementary (Grades 1-3), Upper Elementary/Middle School (Grades 4-8), and High School (Grades 9-12).

Besides learning about methods of teaching core subjects such as math and reading at their grade level, new teachers also need to spend time thinking more generally about how to plan lessons and assess the learning of students. The shaded section in the New Teachers category provides videos and lesson plan templates to help teachers start thinking about these important topics.

The lists below include more content than any school could hope to cover in a few days of teacher orientation. In addition, these are only some of the resources available on The Dock. In many cases, related items are listed on the page for each item; those related items may offer additional help in a given area.

We hope that this material will assist teachers in their preparation for the school year ahead. We pray that God will bless the efforts of school boards, principals, and teachers as they engage in the challenging work of this year!

Preparation for New Teachers--General

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Speaker	Title	Format	Link
Anthony Hurst	*Becoming An Effective Teacher	Audio 4 sessions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/becoming-an-effective-teacher-understanding-your-role/ 2. https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/becoming-an-effective-teacher-fulfilling-the-expectations/ 3. https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/becoming-an-effective-teacher-developing-proper-relationships/ 4. https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/becoming-an-effective-teacher-managing-the-demands/
Steven Brubaker	*Texts for Teachers	Audio 4 sessions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/texts-for-teachers-i-will-build-my-church/ 2. https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/texts-for-teachers-you-shall-love-the-lord-you-shall-love-your-neighbor/ 3. https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/texts-for-teachers-the-lord-is-one-the-earth-is-the-lords/ 4. https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/texts-for-teachers-the-fear-of-the-lord-is-the-beginning-of-wisdom/
Jonas Sauder	Essential Personal Qualities of Teachers	Audio 1 hour 24 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/essential-personal-qualities-of-teachers-jonas-sauder/
Deana Swanson	Incorporating Good Books into any curriculum	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/incorporating-good-books-into-any-curriculum-%c2%96-deana-swanson/
Paul Harrison	Start with Simple: Tips to Make the First Year Less Stressful	Video 5 Minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/start-with-simple-tips-to-make-the-first-year-less-stressful/

Preparation for New Teachers—Lesson Planning and Assessment

The items below will help new teachers start to think about the vital topics of planning lessons and assessing the learning of students. Some of the documents are templates that can be edited.

Speaker	Title	Format	Link
Peter Goertzen	What do Teachers Do? Focusing Your Lessons with Objectives	Video 6 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/what-do-teachers-do-focusing-your-lessons-with-objectives/
Rolin Martin	The 4 Ms of Effective Objectives	Video 15 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/the-4-ms-of-effective-objectives/
Brian J. Martin	More than a Grade: Assessment as a Teaching Tool	Video 5 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/more-than-a-grade-assessment-as-a-teaching-tool/
Betty Yoder	Help for the Beginners and the Experienced	Document for new teacher orientation 25 pages	https://thedockforlearning.org/contributions/help-for-beginners-and-the-experienced/
Jonas Sauder	Basic Lesson Plan Template	Document	https://thedockforlearning.org/contributions/basic-lesson-plan-template/
Arlene Birt	Introduction to Teaching Master Document (includes lesson plan template)	Document	https://thedockforlearning.org/contributions/intro-to-teaching-master-document/

General Interest for Experienced Teachers

General Interest for Experienced Teachers

Speaker	Title	Format	Link
Daniel Rutt	*Biblical Integration	Audio 30-40 minutes each session	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/gods-story-in-education/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/telling-gods-story-in-education/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/calling-students-to-embrace-gods-story/
Daniel Rutt	Biblical Integration Summary	Video 2 clips 5-6 minutes each	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/lighting-the-way-scripture-in-our-classrooms/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/more-than-bible-facts-gods-wisdom-in-our-classrooms/
Kyle Lehman	*Swords to Ploughshares: Knowledge to Wisdom	Audio 30-40 minutes per session 4 sessions	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/swords-to-ploughshares-knowledge-to-wisdom-session-1-kyle-lehman/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/swords-to-ploughshares-knowledge-to-wisdom-session-2-kyle-lehman/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/swords-to-ploughshares-knowledge-to-wisdom-session-3-kyle-lehman/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/swords-to-ploughshares-knowledge-to-wisdom-session-4-kyle-lehman/
Gerald Miller	*A History of Christian Education	Audio 1 hour per session 4 sessions	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/a-history-of-christian-education-part-1-gerald-miller/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/a-history-of-christian-education-part-2-gerald-miller/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/a-history-of-christian-education-part-3-gerald-miller/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/a-history-of-christian-education-part-4-gerald-miller/
Sharon Martin	Called to Teach	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/called-to-teach-sharon-martin/
Sheldon Kauffman	Peaceful Classrooms	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/peaceful-classrooms-what-are-the-ingredients-why-do-they-matter/
Howard Bean	40 Things I've Learned in 40 Years of Teaching	Audio 1 hour 24 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/40-things-ive-learned-in-40-years-of-teaching-howard-bean/

Content for Lower Elementary Teachers			
Speaker	Title	Format	Link
Carolyn Martin	Welcome to First Grade Part 1-2	Audio 1 hour per session	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/welcome-to-first-grade-part-1-carolyn-martin/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/welcome-to-first-grade-part-2-carolyn-martin/
Verlin Miller	Teaching Elementary Math	Audio 50 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/teaching-elementary-math/
Glenda Miller Ruth Anna Kuhns	The Exciting Journey: Guiding Your Class to Successful Reading	Video 12 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/the-exciting-journey-guiding-your-class-to-successful-reading/
Ruth Anna Kuhns	Making Elementary Math Come Alive	Video 2 clips 2-3 minutes each	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/making-elementary-math-come-alive-rekenreks-and-read-alouds/
Yvonne King	Show Them, Tell Them; Techniques to Share the Story of the Bible	Video 3 clips 6-10 minutes each	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/show-them-tell-them-techniques-to-communicate-the-stories-of-the-bible/
Becky Bollinger	Sing, Chant, Learn: Making Memorization Easier with Songs and Chants	Video 8 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/sing-chant-learn-making-memorization-easier-with-songs-and-chants/
Martha Stoltzfus & Karen Yoder	Helping Struggling Readers	Video 5 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/helping-struggling-readers/
Marla Bear	Children Thrive on Routines: The Power of Rhythms for Individualized Classrooms	Video 8 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/children-thrive-on-routines-the-power-of-rhythms-for-individualized-classrooms/
Yvonne King	Responding to the Challenge: Teaching Lower Elementary	Video 6 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/responding-to-the-challenge-teaching-lower-elementary/
Yvonne King	10 Resources for Elementary Math Review	Document	https://thedockforlearning.org/series/elementary-math-fact-review/

Content for Upper Elementary/Middle School Teachers

Content for Upper Elementary/Middle School Teachers

Speaker	Title	Format	Link
Sharon Yoder	3 Components for a Successful Reading Class	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/3-components-for-a-successful-reading-class/
Sharon Yoder	Teaching Fictional Elements in the Reading Class	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/teaching-fictional-elements-in-the-reading-class/
Jonas Sauder	Developing Levels of Reading Comprehension	Audio 2 hours 14 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/developing-levels-of-reading-comprehension-jonas-sauder/
Jonas Sauder	Speaking Skills Across the Curriculum	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/developing-speaking-skills-across-the-curriculum-jonas-sauder/
Amy Zimmerman	Making Your Curriculum Work For You	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/making-your-curriculum-work-for-you-amy-zimmerman/
Melvin Lehman	Teaching Math	Audio 1 hour 40 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/teaching-math/
Bethany Peachey	STAR in Reading	Video 5 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/remember-to-star-honing-communication-skills-in-reading-class/
Rebecca Beiler	Turn and Learn	Video 5 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/turn-and-learn-engaging-every-student-with-turn-and-tell/
Denise Martin	Ways to Call on Students	Video 4 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/to-keep-their-attention-keep-moving-ways-to-call-on-students/
Amy Zimmerman	Too Long, Too Hard: Making Your Curriculum Work for Your Class	Video 6 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/too-long-too-hard-making-your-curriculum-work-for-your-class/

Content for High School Teachers

Content for High School Teachers			
Speaker	Title	Format	Link
Sharon Martin	Conquering Subjectivity in Assessments	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/girls-and-math-how-going-beyond-the-rules-helps-students-engage-with-math/
Dana Atkinson	The Hills and the Valleys: Geology from a Young Earth Perspective	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/the-hills-and-valleys/
Dana Atkinson	Astronomical Adventure: Is Orion's Belt a Waste of Space?	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/astronomical-adventure/
Rolin Martin	Girls and Math: How Going Beyond the Rules Helps Students Engage with Math	Video 9 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/girls-and-math-how-going-beyond-the-rules-helps-students-engage-with-math/
Peter Goertzen	Teaching Church History	Video 5 minutes Linked Resources	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/to-better-serve-god-with-his-people-teaching-church-history/
Peter Goertzen	World Cultures and Geography	Video 5 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/why-we-teach-world-cultures-and-geography/
Sharon Martin	Rubrics	Video 3 minutes Document: 3 sample rubrics	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/how-do-i-assess-subjective-projects-rubrics-for-creative-writing/
Brian J. Martin	Now They Know: Why and How to Differentiate Instruction	Video 5 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/why-and-how-you-can-differentiate-instructions/
If your subject areas are not listed here, you may want to browse the Dock further.			

Content on Learning Difficulties			
Speaker	Title	Format	Link
Content on Learning Difficulties	Lynell Nissley A series of blog posts that should be read first to give an overview to this complex topic. Dyslexia is a common disability that teachers will encounter, so special attention could be given to these blog posts.	Blog Post	Evaluations for Special Education History and Frequency of Special Education Myths about Dyslexia Specific Learning Disabilities The World of the Exceptional Learner What is Dyslexia?
	Anthony Hurst ADHD	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/the-adhd-question-anthony-hurst/
	Becky Bollinger Dyslexia: Signs, Symptoms, and Solutions	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/dyslexia-signs-symptoms-and-solutions/
	Becky Sue Kreider Trauma: How Can I Teach This Child?	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/trauma-how-can-i-teach-this-child/
	Deana Swanson Accommodating Special Needs in the Classroom	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/acomodating-special-needs-in-the-classroom/
	Hannah Johnson Memory	Video 8 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/learning-the-right-brain-way-visual-strategies-to-help-students-remember/
	Wesley King Coping with RAD	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/coping-with-reactive-attachment-disorder/
	Lynell Nissley Resources to Consider	Document	https://thedockforlearning.org/contributions/bibliography-of-resources-for-learning-disabilities/

Content on Developing Class Culture

Speaker	Title	Format	Link
Anthony Hurst	Components of Classroom Culture	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/components-of-classroom-culture/
Jeremy and Diana Sauder	Improving Communication with Your Students (2-part series)	Audio 1 hour each	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/improving-communication-with-your-students-part-1-%c2%96-jeremy-diana-sauder/ https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/improving-communication-with-your-students-part-2-%c2%96-jeremy-diana-sauder/
Melvin Lehman	Authority in Action	Audio 50 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/authority-in-action-melvin-lehman/
Sheldon Kauffman	Peaceful Classrooms Excerpt	Audio 7 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/is-your-classroom-a-place-of-peace/
John Mark Kuhns	Relationships with Students	Video 4 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/its-not-about-me-evaluating-relationships-with-students/
Joseph Shantz	Enjoying School, Delighting in God: Classroom Culture	Video 5 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/what-kind-of-classroom-culture-do-you-want/

Content on Classroom Management

Speaker	Title	Format	Link
Conrad Smucker	Managing a Multi-Grade Classroom	Audio 50 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/procedures-for-managing-a-multi-grade-classroom/
Howard Bean	Discipline: Preventive and Corrective (Grades 3-up)	Audio 1 hour	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/discipline-preventive-and-corrective-grades-3-and-up-%c2%96-howard-bean/
Brian Martin	Setting Up Your Classroom to Enhance Student Learning	Video 4 minutes	https://thedockforlearning.org/audiovideo/setting-up-your-classroom-to-enhance-student-learning/
Karen Nolt	Sample Classroom Procedures (5 th grade)	Document	https://thedockforlearning.org/contributions/sample-classroom-procedures/
Regina Martin	Classroom Management Plan (Grades 1-3)	Document	https://thedockforlearning.org/contributions/classroom-management-plan-for-lower-elementary/
Amy Zimmerman	Code of Conduct	Document	https://thedockforlearning.org/contributions/code-of-conduct/