The Educator’s Inferno

Nine Circles of Hell for Those Who Educate or Legislate

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| Circle | Sinners | Punishment |
| 1 | Teachers who hoard supplies/materials | These teachers are locked in a dimly lit supply room. They must constantly and repetitively write supply inventories with eraser-less pencils, and on the same sheet of paper. If they reach for a supply from the shelves nearby, it will immediately retreat from their grasp. |
| 2 | Teachers who skip their duty posts | These teachers have an eternal early morning carpool duty. They stand in freezing rain with the wind whipping them as they redirect students who never heed their orange stick. They are repeatedly forced to dodge vehicles that ride up onto the sidewalk. |
| 3 | Teachers who call in an expected absence at the last minute and don’t get a sub | These teachers are forced to provide last-minute coverage in one classroom after another. The classes are filled with the most unruly students. There is never a lesson plan. There is no roster. There will be fire drills. Often. |
| 4 | Teachers who ask too many questions/share too much at lengthy faculty meetings | These teachers are seated in the front row of an endless faculty meeting. There will be repeated requests for questions, ideas, or news “for the good of the group.” The teachers will always have something to ask, share, or relay (and it doesn’t apply to the group). Alas, they can’t, as their mouths are glued shut. |
| 5 | Hypocrites and suck-ups | These teachers are given additional duties each day, which they pretend to like, but they never, ever get to advance in any way. |
| 6 | Helicopter Parents! | These parents are forbidden any access to teachers, administrators, or even their students. There is no email, phone, Power School, or visitation. They are forced to watch their children actually do their own work and struggle with it ON THEIR OWN. |
| 7 | Teachers who don’t collaborate or share ideas | These teachers are forced to share all the ideas that occur to them. No one ever believes them, and their ideas never work even for them. |
| 8 | Teachers who gossip or throw other teachers “under the bus” | These teachers are forced to lie in the parking lot while a fully loaded school bus runs over them repeatedly. Worse, they can see someone sharing great gossip but never hear it themselves. |
| 9 | The State Legislature, as well anyone who makes laws or sets standards for teachers without really knowing what they’re talking about | These sinners are forced to teach for a low salary with no hope of increase. Their insurance and expenses will rise beyond their income’s ability to cover them. They will teach the least motivated students (with some behavior issues thrown in) and endure either far too little or far too much parental involvement. They will have limited resources and will be required to meet ever-shifting expectations and teach to their own standardized tests. When they fail, they are tarred and feathered and required to keep on keeping on. This all takes place in a circle ringed by protesting teachers. |