

SYLLABUS FORM

Workshop Title: *(limit to 4 words)*

Teach Like Finland book study

Instructor(s)

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Workshop Description (Proofread carefully. For courses offered to the general public, this will appear on the USF Web Site):

“When Timothy D. Walker started teaching fifth graders at a Helsinki public school, he began a search for the secrets behind the successes of Finland’s schools. In this book, he gathers all he learned and reveals how any teacher can implement many of Finland’s best practices. Remarkably, Finland is prioritizing the joy of learning in its newest core curricula and Walker carefully highlights specific strategies that support joyful K-12 classrooms and integrate seamlessly with education standards in the United States. This book pulls back the curtain on the joyful teaching practices of the world’s most lauded school system.

His message is simple but profound: these Finnish-inspired strategies can be used in the U.S.”

Workshop Objectives:

Participants will learn...

...7 ways to focus on the well-being of both teachers and students.

...7 actions that promote belonging among colleagues and students.

...6 practices that develop autonomy in the classroom.

... 7 strategies that ensure mastery for all students.

...6 changes to create a better mind-set for teachers and their students.

In all, teachers will learn 33 simple strategies to create more joyful classrooms!

Evaluation Criteria: (Include brief description of required assignments and evaluation methodology.)

To earn credit for this course, participants will...*complete 5 quizzes over pages of the text with an average score of 60% or higher.

Quiz 1: Chapter 1, Well-being, pages 3-56 Quiz 2: Chapter 2, Belonging, pages 57-90

Quiz 3: Chapter 3, Autonomy, pages 91-128 Quiz 4: Chapter 4, Mastery, pages 129-166 Quiz 5: Chapter 5, Mind-set, pages 167-190

*respond to all 9 blog posts at www.TransformYourClassroom.net that correspond to the text and the TED talks.

Blog Post 1: [Chapter 1, Well-being, pages 3-56]

How often do you get your students up and moving physically? In what ways? [Or why not?]

Does this make a difference in their academic performance? Explain your reasoning.

Blog Post 2: Pasi Sahlberg, in his TED talk, “What If Finland’s Great Teachers Taught In Your Schools?”, compares teachers in a school to players on a football team.

Do you currently feel like you’re a part of a team? In what ways? [Or why not?]

Does this make a difference in student performance? Explain your reasoning.

Blog Post 3: [Chapter 2, Belonging, pages 57-90]

How well do you know your students academically? How well do you know your students personally?

In what ways? Are these equally important? Explain your reasoning.

Blog Post 4: Adam Saenz, in his TED talk, “The Power of a Teacher”, discusses how substitute teaching piqued his interest in education. How do you feel after watching this video? What has it inspired you to become or to do?

Blog Post 5: [Chapter 3, Autonomy, pages 91-128]

Are routines important? What degree of freedom are you comfortable giving your students?

What does [or could] this look like in your classroom?

Blog Post 6: Peter Hutton, in his TED talk, “What If Students Controlled Their Own Learning?”, describes his school in which there is no school bell, no school levels, and staff selection and curriculum are decided upon by students.

Would you like to be a teacher in his school? Why or why not? What aspects of his school would you like to see incorporated into your own system? How could you make this happen?

Blog Post 7: [Chapter 4, Mastery, pages 129-166]

How do you ensure you are teaching the essentials? What role does the textbook play in your teaching? What role does technology play in student learning? Do you ever “bring in the music”? If so, how? If not, why not? Do you see yourself as a coach rather than a teacher? If so, how? If not, why not? How do you [or could you] have your students “prove the learning”? How do you [or could you] “discuss the grades” with your students?

Blog Post 8: Eva Ren, in her TED talk, “What Your Grades Really Mean”, discusses the value of grades and the message they send.

Quote 3 statements from the video that you agree with. Quote 2 statements from the video that you disagree with. Why do you disagree? Describe 1 idea you had while watching the video.

Blog Post 9: [Chapter 5, Mind-set, pages 167-190]

Do you actually vacate on vacation? Why or why not? How often do you actually take a break from teaching and everything that goes along with being a teacher? Do you want to change this? Why or why not?