

It is sad that the advice that I was given when I started teaching more than 30 years ago -- never smile until Christmas -- is still being passed along today. It’s not the most common advice, but it is still out there.

May I remind you that this may be the first time that your students are in a CTE class or at a technology center? As we covered last year, the students need to get to know you, and this is better done with a smile that creates an atmosphere that is inviting and safe.

Smiling makes your efforts at the beginning of the year to establish trust, set expectations and institute rules and routines more success while lowering the stress of students and parents. It also lets the students know you have fun teaching your CTE subject and you want them to join in that fun while pursuing careers.

You need to avoid a few things to make smiling a routine, however:

1. Showing outward frustration or displeasure while establishing routines and rules for classroom and lab procedures.
2. Glaring, scolding, threatening or lecturing when students forget a rule or procedure during the first few months of school. Don’t ignore the infraction, but smile and ask them to tell you what they should be doing.
3. Talking too much and too often and not allowing yourself to smile and enjoy as the students show you what they know or can do.
4. Repeating yourself and not allowing students to use other sources to know what they should be doing.
5. Giving in to personal stress and tension and not enjoying the art and science of teaching with the joy of watching the students learn.

While you are working on being consistent with your classroom management it is also necessary to work on being consistent with your habits of smiling and enjoying what you are teaching.

The link that follows has some things to think about to keep you smiling: [20 things.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5yCOSHeYn4)

Coming Professional Development events in September: [**Teacher Academy**](https://www.okcareertech.org/educators/professional-development/teacher-academy)**.**