• Join your local association/TSTA/NEA and be a part of the largest community of educators in the world.
• Make time to plan and prepare. Every profession does it.
• Rehearse your work. Every profession does this, too.
• Set boundaries: physical, social, and emotional.
• Listen to and observe your students; actions and words may be warning signs.
• Get a copy of any IEP modifications as soon as possible.
• Remember the value of ESPs. They’re also educators.
• Spend your budget prudently.
• Keep your personal social media accounts separate from your school ones but be careful what you post on both of them. Once something is out there, it’s out there.
• Go to ARD meetings as they’re too important to miss.
• It’s about the FUTURE, not the test.
• It’s better to be over-prepared than under-prepared.
• Ask the questions that get the answers you need and want.
• Rehearse how you plan to respond to discipline, questions, etc.
• Make sure everything you say and do elevates teaching as a profession.
• Always conduct yourself in a manner befitting the teaching profession. If it seems you are held to a higher standard, you are.
• As you GROW (your expertise), share your GLOW (your accomplishments)
• Understand the collegiality of the profession because it’s all interconnected.
• Keep interactions with students professional and above-board.
• Take calculated risks; learning involves risk and teaching does, too.
• Collect and maintain artifacts (such as lesson plans, student projects, etc.) that support your practice.
• If you wouldn’t say something to someone in person, don’t say it on social media.
• Create a literacy-rich environment.
• Maintain flexibility; you never know when you will have to monitor, adjust, or adapt something.
• Journal what’s happening in your classroom. It may be a best-seller in the making.
• Listen more and talk less.