

MATA NEW Teacher Survival Guide

***Congratulations, You're Hired!!!
Now What???***

Maryland Agricultural Teachers Association's Survival Guide
for New Educators/New MATA Members



Beginning Thoughts.....

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FFA

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Professional Development

- A. MATA/ Summer Maryland Ag Ed Conference
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References/links

2. Mentorship (don't suffer in silence--pick up the phone and text/call/email)

3. Words of Advice from the wise OLDER owls....

Concluding Thoughts....

Just like encouraging students to be involved in FFA to become a leader, teachers will continue to benefit from furthering their leadership skills and development by participation and involvement in professional organizations (MATA, NAAE, Farm Bureau) (provide comparison between FFA and MATA). Don't be a hypocrite--if you want your students to become involved, lead the parade, be a role model, demonstrate the skills you are encouraging in your students. You will be better for it as a person,

camaraderie, career satisfaction, memories, motivation, new ideas, talking with others that understand unique needs of ag teachers.

Join teachers associations which will assist with liability insurance and lawyer services among other benefits

You never know when you will need it. The cost is worth the piece of mind.

NAAE also provides liability insurance with other benefits.

A. The things no one tells you about but expects you to know

Best way to prepare for the upcoming year:

Attend the Summer Conference!!!

1. Meet colleagues
2. Networking
3. Get involved in professional organization
4. Gain lesson idea, mentors, personal lifelines and connections
5. Jump in to workshops, tours, social events
6. Attire is business casual/casual
7. Bring business attire for awards banquets

B. Fall Semester in Maryland (To do) (Best Practices)

Remember that as you are now in front of students, what you say, how you say it, what you wear, what you post, and how you present yourself in the school and community is now viewed in a different lens. You are a ROLE MODEL--hold yourself to a higher standard and be the teacher that parents are impressed with. YOU are more often than not the key to a successful ag program. Live what you aim to create in your students--premier leadership, personal growth, and career success

1. Get to know the office and custodial staff--they are key players when you need something or an answer

2. Take the time for lunch, even if its only to sit down for 10 minutes
3. Set up your calendar for the year so dates don't sneak up on you
4. Complete paperwork for fundraisers and field trips sooner than later
5. Meet with your officers and set expectations
6. Learn that it's okay to say no
7. Figure out your school wardrobe. Have a go-to outfit that you don't have to think about when you are too tired to think about it. Also have that feel-good outfit to wear the day after you have a bad day. It will make a difference and remind you you can do this!

Dress professionally, set an example. Dress AT LEAST in business Casual ([youtube link here](#)) and 1-2 steps up from students, the exception being school events where staff participates.

Attire is especially important when being a new teacher and you are close in age to your students. Draw an invisible line between teacher and students!

8. Aside from posting on program and/or chapter social media platforms, it is not a good idea to post a photo of yourself with a current student on any public social media.
9. Watch your posts--ask yourself, would a parent be okay with what I post? Are you being a good role model?
10. Your personal life is no longer your personal life. You are a representative of your school, school system, community, your program, and yourself. Others will form impressions of these groups based on your attire, language, and actions. Make these impressions positive and something you'd like to brag about!

C. Spring Semester in Maryland (To do)

Getting into the slump: you're tired.

1. Reach out to a colleague and/or a fellow ag teacher for some discussion
2. Take a day off! Mental health days are essential and important to take a breath and take care of yourself and your life outside of school
3. Consider applying for some MATA and NAAE Awards and attending at least the MATA Summer Conference if not the NAAE Conference. Professional development is key to rejuvenating after a long year and long-term career satisfaction. Reflect on your successes and challenges and determine what you will use and change for next year.
4. At the end of the school year, try to schedule several days off and take a break from school. Then plan the work for the summer and then work the plan.

D. Summer in Maryland (To do)

1. Take advantage of summer professional development opportunities--travel, attend workshops, etc. Ag teachers are found nationwide and connect with someone new. You might actually meet a new friend!
2. Spend time becoming familiar with AET and FFA and realizing that the two sync together.

E. What to bring to FFA events

When students are in official dress, your attire should be professional as well. Students should be in official dress as determined by the FFA

Manual. Skirts need to be long enough (slightly above the knee)--if you are unsure--ask your admin/mother/wife for approval.

Resources:

Coaching of teams: Access the National Exams on FFA.org (last 5 to 10 years)

Georgia has good examples of state CDE tests and good quizlets

Type in on Google for resources

Tennessee

Print off national exams (practice with time limits)

F. What to do and wear at FFA events

To add in somewhere in this document:

Reference the FFA.org resources