

Some Helpful Hints I Wish Someone Told Me:

- Avoid being “friends” with students on Facebook or other social networking sites.
- Think twice before posting any pictures or “status” that can be deemed inappropriate. Please be sure to enable all privacy levels on any social media you use.
- Don’t discuss student or parent issues in the faculty room or other public areas.
- Avoid transporting students in your personal vehicle.
- Don’t offer opinions or advice to a parent rather than simply communicating observed behaviors.
- Don’t recommend outside interventions (i.e. tutoring) for students to parents.
- Avoid crossing professional boundary lines with students (i.e. gossiping about other students, faculty, staff, sharing personal information, etc...).
- Think twice before working with students alone in your classroom; keep the door open.
- Your school computer and any information on it, including email, **belong to the school and can be accessed at any time** by authorized personnel.
- Have a well-trained bladder because you can **never** leave your room unattended.
- There isn’t a dress code for teachers. However, you are encouraged to dress like the professionals that you are. When in doubt, look at how your colleagues dress.
- Planning time is not free time; no tanning or grocery shopping during planning time! However, this time belongs to you, so you do not have to attend meetings during this time.
- Don’t sign up for every committee during your first year! You’re going to feel stretched.
- Go to the faculty room for lunch and/or before and after school. Teaching can be an isolating profession. Don’t let it be!

Administrators and You:

It is sometimes difficult to determine who your direct supervisor is. The building principal, school superintendent, or in the case of special education teachers, the special education director, would be your direct supervisors. All administrators, however, have supervisory authority over teachers. As a member of the STA, you should comply with any directives made by an administrator, and speak with your building representative regarding any issue that makes you uncomfortable.

Tenure:

Earning tenure is a major accomplishment in a teacher’s career. The Spencerport Teachers’ Association represents and supports both tenured and non-tenured teachers. It is especially crucial that you contact your building representative if an issue arises that may impact your ability to earn tenure. Don’t wait to seek out support from the STA.

Contact a member of Executive Council if you have any questions or difficulties including:

- If you are called to a meeting with an administrator, and you are told it is disciplinary in nature
- If you are asked to teach more than the contractual student class load
- If you are assigned to do something outside of your contractual school day
- If you disagree with an observation/evaluation
- If you experience a workplace situation in which you feel uncomfortable and don't know who to turn to

Quick and easy ways to become involved in the STA:

- Participate in STA social events
- Help with an STA event (see calendar for ideas)
- Wear your STA shirt often with pride!
- Attend a Board of Education meeting and wear your STA shirt
- Join a committee
- Attend a meeting of the Parent/Teacher Organization
- Donate to Vote-Cope and the STA Scholarship fund (more information will be provided)
- Join the Member Action Center through NYSUT: <https://mac.nysut.org/>
- Download the MAC App on your cellphone and use it often