

Sweet

SUMMER RESETS

A SPRINKLE OF IDEAS FOR A STRONG START

Summer offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, and reset. These ideas are designed to help you recharge, strengthen your systems, and begin the year with clarity and purpose.

Refilling Your Cup: Small Ways to Recharge This Summer

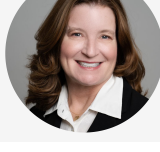
Remember the feeling after your last final exam? The pressure was finally off, and after weeks of intensity, you suddenly found yourself with free time and no immediate deadlines.

As you transition from the intensity of the school year, think beyond rest and big vacations to what truly fills your cup. Give yourself permission to make it about you and what you love to do. Enjoy your passions on your own or with friends, family, and children. Whether it's a day by the water, a backyard BBQ, a card game that turns competitive, a local concert, or an afternoon spent doing absolutely nothing productive, make time for the things that bring you joy.



Consider this professional development for your soul—no agenda, no learning targets, and no follow-up meeting required.

READ MORE FROM PAM →



Written by Dr. Pam Gildersleeve-Hernandez
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A Fresh Scoop: Starting the Year with Clarity

The beginning of a new school year always brings a sense of possibility and, often, a long list of priorities. One strategy I frequently encourage leaders to use is a **100-Day Plan**. By identifying a few key goals, action steps, and milestones for the first 100 days, teams can create focus, build momentum, and establish a strong foundation for the year ahead.

FIRST 100 DAYS



DAY 30
Focus



DAY 60
Momentum



DAY 90
Reflection



DAY 100
Celebration

A 100-Day Plan helps **turn good intentions into purposeful action**.

Rather than trying to do everything at once, it keeps attention on the work that will have the greatest impact on students and staff while creating opportunities to celebrate progress along the way.

One reminder worth keeping front and center: **clarity is kind**. When people understand the goals, expectations, and next steps, they can move forward with confidence.

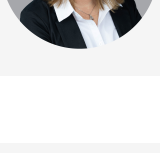
Like a great ice cream cone, a strong school year starts with a solid foundation. A little intentional planning at the beginning helps everything else hold together when the pace picks up.



Want support building your 100-Day Plan?

Check out the 100-Day Leaders Program—an online course designed to help school leaders set priorities, lead with clarity, and create momentum from day one.

LEARN MORE →



Written by Krissy Machamer
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Sweet Systems: Routines Worth Setting Early

The first few weeks of school are when habits are formed and expectations are established. One of the most impactful routines I have seen in classrooms and schools is establishing a consistent start-of-day system from day one. Whether it's a morning meeting, a daily agenda review, a learning target routine, or a quick student check-in, the key is consistency.

Effective educators and leaders don't leave routines, communication, or expectations to chance. They intentionally model, practice, and reinforce them until they become second nature. When students and staff know what to expect, instructional time increases, unnecessary confusion decreases, and relationships strengthen.

As you prepare for the upcoming year, identify one routine that will have the greatest impact on learning, culture, or communication. Commit to teaching, practicing, and reinforcing it during the first few weeks of school. The time invested early pays dividends all year long.



Featured Podcast

Hear Rachael discuss leadership, systems, and creating sustainable practices that support students and staff.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE →

MODEL



PRACTICE

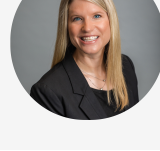


MONITOR



REFINE

Strong schools are built on strong systems, and the sweetest systems are the ones that become second nature.



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The Sweet Spot: Small Ways to Recharge This Summer

As you prepare for a new school year, take time to reflect on the practices, systems, and routines that made a positive difference this year. Perhaps it was a meeting structure that improved collaboration, a communication process that kept staff informed, an intervention system that supported students, or a leadership practice that strengthened school culture.

Create a simple **"Worth Repeating"** list. Capture the strategies, routines, and decisions that contributed to success and identify how they will be carried forward into the year ahead. Consider saving examples, templates, agendas, or resources in a shared folder that can serve as a starting point when planning resumes.

WORTH REPEATING

- ✓ Systems
- ✓ Routines
- ✓ Resources
- ✓ Practices

Strong schools do not start from scratch each August. They build on what works, refine what doesn't, and intentionally carry their best ideas forward. **Sometimes the sweetest spot for growth is found by protecting the practices that already make a difference.**

READ MORE FROM MICHELLE →



Written by Dr. Michelle Cleveland
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At CLS, Impact is Not Optional — it's Fundamental.

We partner with schools and districts to transform intention into measurable results through tailored support, research-aligned practice, and collaborative implementation.

Let's Talk

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