



## What Will Teachers Do during the Summer?

By Mark Taylor, College/University Representative

I am writing this article for college students who will be future teachers. However, it could be helpful for any current teacher also. When I talk with education students about the benefits of being a teacher, we talk about “June, July, and August.” Teaching is one of the few professions that you typically get extensive time off during the summer. What can you do? What should you do? What will you do this summer?

### Top Ten Recommendations

There are many good articles with suggestions for teachers. I am going to highlight the top 10 recommendations from an article, “Top 10 Things for Teachers During Summer Vacation” by Melissa Kelly.<sup>1</sup>

**Number 1: Get Away From It All.** Maybe that means to go on a vacation out of town. It could be a “staycation” if you cannot afford to travel. I love sports, so I find it enjoyable to go to a baseball game or two. It is fun to visit different baseball stadiums. I know some people who love to go camping. Do something you enjoy—perhaps something not related to teaching.

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<sup>1</sup> Kelly, Melissa. “Top 10 Things for Teachers During Summer Vacation.” August 27, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/during-summer-vacation-8342>.

**Number 2: Try Something New.** Maybe you have always wanted to take guitar lessons. One time, I took a guitar class with one of my sons. There are lots of opportunities during the summer to learn a new hobby or skill.

**Number 3: Do Something Just for Yourself.** Do something that pampers you or a special activity you would not normally do for yourself. You may love a good massage or pedicure. I have thought about a pedicure, but my feet are scary!

**Number 4: Reflect on Last Year's Teaching Experiences.** Good teachers take time for reflection. After you have been away from school for a while, think about what went well and what you would like to do better. Record your reflections on paper or your phone.

**Number 5: Be Informed About Your Profession.** Take time to read those journal articles and other education readings you did not have time to read. Pick out a topic you would like to investigate.

**Number 6: Maintain Your Expertise.** Take time to read current blogs, watch teaching videos, and explore new lesson ideas. Attend an educational workshop.

**Number 7: Choose a Few Lessons to Improve.** Maybe there is a lesson you would like to improve or enhance. Summer is a good time to enhance a lesson without any time pressures.

**Number 8: Assess Your Classroom Procedures.** Along with your discipline plan, review your classroom procedures. Adding some fresh ideas to these plans will make you more eager to go back and try them on a new group of students.

**Number 9: Inspire Yourself.** Read about some inspirational educators. Do something that reminds you of the difference you have made in the lives of students and their families. I would encourage you to take a spiritual retreat and time of renewal. Get away and read God's Word and pray.

**Number 10: Take a Colleague to Lunch.** Think of a co-worker whom you would like to encourage and show your appreciation. That person will be encouraged, and you will be, too! How much fun it will be to have plenty of time to eat lunch and visit with a friend.

### **Other Considerations**

- Only check or look at your email once a day or one day a week.
- Teach summer school. Summer school is usually less stressful and can provide a little extra money.
- Be a student and take a graduate class.
- Coach a kids' team.
- Pick up an odd job that you would enjoy.
- Volunteer for a mission or service project. Sign up to be a camp counselor.
- Stock up on classroom supplies. Look for the great back-to-school sales.
- Check out the area yard sales and estate sales. Sometimes you find items—books, recordings, recess games or equipment, etc.—for your classroom.
- Sleep—catch up on your lost hours of sleep. It is okay to sleep longer and rejuvenate.
- Take a few days and create a to-do list for the upcoming school year.
- Exercise—walk, ride a bike, swim, play softball, etc. This is good for your mental and physical health.

- Take care of all your preventative healthcare. Summer is a good time for physicals, eye checkups, and a visit to the dentist.
- Do a digital detox. Take some time away from social media. Put your cellphones away at times.
- Enjoy your pets. Hang out with them.
- Spend some extra time with your family.
- Keep a summer journal of your experiences.

I hope that when you are a teacher, you find meaningful and refreshing ways to get the most out of your summers. Whether you are a current teacher or a future teacher, I would love to hear about ideas you have to make summers awesome.

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