



The Chalkboard

“The Telling of Questions”

As a teacher we want to improve our students’ engagement with their studies whether it be Bible, math, or science. Writing and using questions are some tools to improve engagement. In this writing, I am going to focus on using questions.

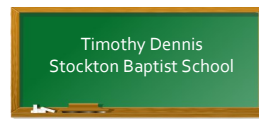
In a classroom, questions are either directed to the students or to the teacher. Both groups of questions are important. As a teacher we should not be too quick to discount a student’s question as being silly or not well thought out. Insight can be gained as to how the student thinks and how he or she processes material. The student’s question, depending on its nature and how it is asked, will also reveal the student’s frame of mind at that moment. As a teacher, genuine interest must be shown in listening to the question and in responding to the question. The teacher’s response to the student’s question can help maintain and develop a student’s inquisitive spirit. In the same way, the questions that teachers ask also reveal our frame of mind: Are we interested in the material? Are we engaged in our own lesson? Are we prepared? Do we desire our students to understand? Lesson preparation should include question preparation. What kind of questions should be asked and when?

⇒ Regardless of the age group that we teach, teachers should go beyond the simple “yes” or “no” questions to increase the engagement of the student in the subject that is being taught. If a “yes” or “no” question is to be used, it should be coupled with a follow-up question to encour-

age students to be further engaged in the subject.

- ⇒ The timing of the questions should also be changed from time to time. When are questions normally given to be answered? They are given at the end of the lesson. To make the lesson more interactive, ask questions throughout the lesson.
- ⇒ Scaffolding questions increases a student’s critical thinking and confidence. Teacher should consider using [Bloom’s model questions](#) and key words to help improve questions.
- ⇒ Teachers can do a further study of how questions prick the heart by seeing how Jesus used questions in His ministry. In Luke alone, Jesus asks 55 questions. This study would make a great teacher meeting Bible study to better understand what kind of questions were asked, the motive behind the question, and the effectiveness of the questions. If interested in doing this study, teachers or administrators can contact [Shannon Steuerwald](#) for a reference list of those questions.

Teachers like to tell; after all, we are teachers. We sometimes fail to see just how telling questions can be. Teachers should be asking, “What are my questions telling my students?”



AND



Reading and writing numbers can be challenging! If you find teaching place value is difficult for students to grasp or if you find students struggle to read larger numbers because they haven't mastered place value, use a pill box to help solidify the concept. You can find this idea explained by visiting ["An Apple for the Teacher"](#) blog. For a more crafty approach to using the pill box to teach place value visit the ["Undercover Classroom"](#) blog. The author prepares the pill box in more detail. Either way, with a quick trip to a dollar store for a pill box and dice, and you have a quick and easy tool to use in future math classes.

Meet the GSACS Leadership Team

President

Dr. David Brock is the pastor of Faith Baptist Church of Cherokee Road in Newberry Springs and is the staff chaplain for the staff at Ironwood, a Christian camp. He is an advocate for Christian education, and his ministry roles have given him opportunity to serve students and educators at the K12 to college levels. He and his wife Yvonne serve together and have two children. Dr. Brock accepted the presidency at GSACS in 2016.

Executive Director

Mrs. Shannon Steuerwald and her husband Steve have been in ministry in California for over 27 years at Ironwood, a Christian camp located in the Mojave Desert. Shannon has served as administrator of Ironwood Christian Academy and secondary English teacher since 1997, and she has been involved with GSACS as a student, teacher, administrator, and currently as executive director since its inception. She is committed to the mission of assistance in educating the next generation and encouraging educators to excel spiritually and professionally.

Calendar Reminders

October 5 — GSACS Board Meeting @ 6 p.m., Oxnard, CA

October 6-7 — Educators' Convention, Oxnard, CA, 12 p.m. to 12 p.m.

November 1 — IOWA Achievement Test Material Order Deadline

December 15 — Deadline for AACS Writing Contest Entries to State Office

January 10-20 — Academic Online and Writing Tests Ordering Window

January 21-January 31 — Academic Writing Testing Window

January 21-February 14 — Academic Online Testing Window

March 2-3 — Competition in Santa Maria

March 18 — Northern El. Competition in Stockton

Congratulations to

Patsy Spencer!

52 years of teaching so far!

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