



**Red4EdNC**

## **Teacher Life: Top 10 Categories Why NC Teachers REALLY Need to Vote Early!**

**Angela Scioli, Wake County Public School Teacher, et al** (meaning many of her teacher friends who joined her on Facebook)

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Early voting starts WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, and we can think of no single group of professionals that are better suited for early voting than North Carolina's 10,000 + teachers! Why, you might ask? Oh, let us count the ways! I asked my fellow teachers to help me brainstorm a list of the REAL ways their best laid plans have gotten blown up in a single day, and would have been just the thing that would have prevented them from voting on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

There's a few different categories.

There's the

### **#1: "Don't Be Fooled That Whatever Flexibility Has Been Put Into Place For Other Professionals Applies to You" Category**

Heard there is a two hour delay in your school system to ease traffic and crowding at the polls? Thinking you'll have time in the a.m.? Oh no, that probably doesn't apply to teachers! For example, Wake County is expecting all teachers to be in at the usual time. Other counties have a teacher workday and have planned professional development sessions all day.

And, then there's the

### **#2: "Ninja Tricks All Teachers Need to Think About"**

If you vote early, you can get the copy machine all to yourself when everyone else is standing in the other line!

And the ever popular

### **#3: "You Didn't Actually Think You Were Getting Out on Time??" Reality**

A last minute IEP meeting is called and YOU are the only core subject teacher...and guess what...it's time to review and change it!

Monday's after school faculty meeting ran into Tuesday.

Surprise! Someone from downtown wants to talk to you about additional insurance you can't afford anyway....for an hour and a half!

A new kid that has a limited English vocabulary doesn't know how he is supposed to get home and no one is answering the number in PowerSchool and school has been out for an hour and a half.

An angry parent storms in because their child has a low grade, and they want to know why YOU didn't remind them to do/take out/turn in their homework every night for the past 8 weeks.

That one kid that turns in everything late for a "70" brings in all his assignments the day before grades are due. And he wants to know his new grade. Like, NOW, because his phone is about to be taken away.

A student tells you they are suicidal at 2:15 and you can't locate a parent for the next several hours. That parent that you've been trying to get to come in for a conference finally comes in...unannounced

Or the

#### **#4: The "You Aren't a Teacher, You Just Wouldn't Understand" Issue:**

It's book character day! And you go to the polls dressed as Ms. Frizzle because you forgot your "normal" clothes and you get mistaken for an escaped mental patient.

And the

#### **#5: "Standard Occupational Hazard" Calculus:**

It's flu season. So, there is a 90% chance you will get vomited on by a tiny human.

#### **#6: The "DOH! I Never Have Time to Do My ACTUAL Job" Reality**

You get so caught up reflecting on your amazing lessons that day that you completely lose track of time.....OR....."oh (insert word of choice), I don't have lesson plans done for tomorrow."

PowerSchool has been down for maintenance and grades are due tomorrow.

There are not enough bus drivers (they are all voting) and you get pulled to drive a "quick" route. Three hours and most of the county later....

Not be outdone by the

#### **#7: The "If You Stick Around Long Enough You See it All" Dynamic:**

Your classroom was broken into and you have to spend your "after the bell" time cleaning and reorganizing!

You are in a hurry to leave school, but unfortunately slip, fall, and split your knee open. You then have to drive yourself to the Emergency Room for stitches!

An early ice storm hits and you have to stay in school to make pb&j sandwiches for the kids that couldn't get picked up.

During your parking lot duty, a teenage driver backs into another car. You are stuck comforting them and trying to convince them their parents aren't going to "kill them," trying to find the other car's driver, AND a principal and SRO.

It's field trip day to Old Salem. And your bus is the one broken down on I - 40. But it's ok - they can "get another one to you by 6:00 pm. Hang tight!"

Or the

**#8: “I Don’t Have the Bandwidth to Run My Life and Teaching Life Simultaneously” Reality**

Your super-duper teacher's car breaks down on the way to the polls and you had to let your AAA membership expire when your parents didn't renew it for you. Because who can afford AAA?

One of your 1st period students is certain the set of car keys he or she has lost is in your room, and you help search, no luck. BUT, they've also managed to misplace their phone and don't know any phone numbers. So... you help track down a ride and wait with them until the ride arrives after work. Then you can't remember where you have put your own keys.

Not to be confused with the

**#9: “I Have Multiple Jobs and I’m Always Working One of Them” Problem**

It's the start of basketball season and somehow you forgot it's your gate duty night until you get that email reminder to pick up your box!

And finally, the

**#10: “Details Matter” category:**

You show up at the polls on November 28th and are surrounded by Trump supporters wondering where everyone is...

**See, teachers?? It’s crazy out there! Do yourself, and all of NC a favor!**

**We need to hear your voice loud and clear this November; take control of this situation and VOTE. And, VOTE EARLY!**