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SEVENTHEDITION

# Teaching and Learning

in the Elementary School

### **Seventh Edition**

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 ISBN: 0-13-022642-4 In this textbook we emphasize the social importance of the elementary school teacher. Amid the social unrest swirling around them—families falling apart, communities in conflict over local issues, children suffering from neglect and abuse, domestic violence, and battered mothers—stand elementary school teachers, each Monday through Friday during the school year, teaching their charges the three Rs, how to think critically and creatively, how to live with one another, what it means to be an American, and a whole lot more! For countless numbers of children, only their teacher stands between them and the abyss of ignorance and anomie. Accordingly, in this text we paint a realistic picture of what it means to be an elementary school teacher today.

As in previous editions, two important themes permeate this book: that elementary school teaching is basically a call to the service of humanity, and that the most effective elementary school teaching involves continual, thoughtful, and reflective decision making. This means that you must understand that teaching is a profession and, among other things, that there is no "magical bag of tricks" that can be passed from one person to another that will work for every teacher in every situation in every classroom with every group of children.

Children need teachers who care deeply about them and who can inspire them with the confidence they need to face their future. To motivate, to encourage, to stimulate, to build strong self-esteem, and most important, to care—these descriptors really define the most important work that a teacher does with elementary school children. Saying this in no way diminishes the importance of the teacher's responsibility to teach essential subject matter.

The fundamental teaching skills presented in this text—centered around the categories of planning for instruction, grouping children for instruction, establishing and maintaining a safe and effective learning environment, and assessing student learning—have been derived from the best and most current research and practice. We list anticipated learning outcomes at the beginning of each chapter as mental organizers for your study.

The treatment of fundamental teaching skills in this book does not substitute for content-specific teaching methodologies. You will acquire specific teaching skills that apply to reading, mathematics, social studies, science, and the other subjects and skills of the elementary school curriculum by enrolling in special methods courses and studying the texts for those specific disciplines.

Throughout this text you will find vignettes, "verbal snapshots" of class-room situations that a teacher might encounter. Based on real incidents, these provide provocative springboards for class discussion about teaching. Teaching involves decision making, and good teaching is the result of making wise decisions at appropriate times.

Study questions, activities, and a list of references for further study appear at the end of each chapter.

#### **NEW FOR THIS EDITION**

We have tried to make this seventh edition of *Teaching and Learning in the Elementary School* as succinct and as user friendly as possible. Each chapter begins with an **introduction** and a list of **anticipated outcomes** and concludes with a **summary**. A **glossary** appears at the end of the book.

We have added **Internet resources** and emphasis on **interweaving multimedia with lessons and learning**. See, for example, figures on recommended Internet sites in Chapter 2 and the sample lesson plan in Chapter 7.

Subject to further directions from your course instructor, you will develop two major performance outcomes from your study of this book: (1) the first draft of your personal plan for a **classroom management system** (see Chapter 5), and (2) a unit plan of instruction for use in your teaching. The unit plan will help you connect the essence of content from one chapter to the next, especially in Chapters 6 through 11, which specifically incorporate this assignment. Both performance outcomes provide meaningful and useful performance exhibits of your study.

We have restructured this seventh edition to update and more efficiently present the information (revisions from previous editions are noted in parentheses). Chapter 1 includes discussion of grade-level organization (former Chapter 3) and new content about today's reforms. Chapter 2 adds information on competency testing, children who are at risk, the gifted and talented, student rights, and responsive school practices. Chapter 3 discusses skills instruction (former Chapter 11).

The bulk of Chapter 4 is new for this edition. It also includes information on professional development for elementary school teachers (former Chapter 15). Chapter 5 is updated with emphasis on defining classroom management as establishing and managing an environment for learning. It is in this chapter that, as a performance product, you will start the draft of your classroom management system.

Chapter 6 includes some of former Chapter 8, new content about unit planning, and more on the importance of reflection. Beginning with this chapter and continuing through the text you will develop your second performance product, a unit plan that you will complete in Chapter 11. Chapter 7 revises and expands our discussion of objectives, and includes content on

Preface

affective learning and values teaching (former Chapter 13). Chapter 8 updates content on theoretical considerations and comparing and contrasting direct and indirect instruction (former Chapters 6 and 11). Chapter 9 adds sections on quality (mastery) learning, learning alone, learning in pairs, the learning center, and cooperative learning. Chapter 10 thoroughly explores questioning as a teaching tool and adds a section on teaching thinking. Chapter 11, on assessment, discusses portfolios, and checklists and rubrics, with a new section on marking, grading, and reporting (former Chapter 15), and includes material about reporting from former Chapter 1.

#### PEOPLE WE WANT TO THANK

The preparation of this seventh edition has resulted in a book that we hope you find useful now and for at least the first several years of your professional career. We appreciate the help we have received from others who have shared their ideas and successes and who have permitted us to include their names in the book, from authors and publishers who have graciously permitted us to reprint their materials, and from chapter and manuscript reviewers who have helped us immensely to avoid errors and improve the book's content. As always, though, we assume full responsibility for any errors or shortcomings that slipped through the several screenings the manuscript received.

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### Accompanying This Book

# THE PRENTICE HALL COMPANION WEBSITE: A VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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#### For the Student—

- Topic Overviews—outline key concepts in topic areas
- **Electronic Bluebook**—send homework or essays directly to your instructor's email with this paperless form
- **Message Board**—serves as a virtual bulletin board to post—or respond to—questions or comments to/from a national audience
- **Chat**—real-time chat with anyone who is using the text anywhere in the country—ideal for discussion and study groups, class projects, etc.
- Web Destinations—links to www sites that relate to each topic area
- Professional Organizations—links to organizations that relate to topic areas
- Additional Resources—access to topic-specific content that enhances material found in the text

To take advantage of these and other resources, please visit the *Teaching* and *Learning in the Elementary School* Companion Website at

www.prenhall.com/jarolimek



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## Teaching in the Elementary School

**Nearly** a century ago the author H. G. Wells described the teacher as that "sower of unseen harvests" because the results of what the teacher sows in students' young minds may not be apparent until long after the teacher is gone, or perhaps even forgotten. But good teachers are rarely forgotten. They put their imprint on the students they teach just as surely as artists put their unique mark on their work. Your great challenge as an elementary school teacher, therefore, lies precisely in determining the kind of imprint you will leave on the character, sensitivity, curiosity, love of learning, and moral values of the children that you are given the privilege and responsibility of teaching.