

# First CLASS

A resource for new teachers in New York City

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Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

## Dear New Teacher,

Congratulations! You're in the final days of the 2015-16 school year!

The *First Class* Team enjoyed being part of your first year as a DOE teacher. *First Class* averaged a readership of 3,000 new teachers per month. We hope this publication felt relevant and useful throughout your year. If you have new colleagues joining your school in the fall, please tell them to be on the lookout for *First Class*.

We appreciated your feedback from each edition's Reader Survey; your suggestions and comments shaped content in every issue and will continue to improve this publication for future cohorts of new DOE teachers.

As the school year comes to a close, take a moment to reflect on how you have grown and all you have accomplished. Read on for some ideas for closing out the school year with your students.

We encourage you to keep in touch throughout your teaching career. You can access all of this year's editions of *First Class* [here](#).

Have a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break!

Sincerely,

The *First Class* Team  
[NewTeacherSupport@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NewTeacherSupport@schools.nyc.gov)

## End-of-the-Year Activities

### Three suggestions to close out the school year

#### *What are some meaningful activities I can do in the final days of the school year?*

Here are three powerful ways to celebrate the conclusion of the school year.



1. **Reflect on the past year:** consider this celebratory idea from educator and blogger Dave Stuart Jr.: [Pop-Up Toasts](#).
2. **Connect academic content to your students' futures:** describe some professional careers that pertain to content in your class.
3. **Set students up for success this summer:** highlight local learning opportunities for students and their families. The DOE's [Summer Activities for Families webpage](#) has some great suggestions for age-appropriate opportunities relevant for your students. Explore more ideas using these sites: [NY Public Library Summer Reading Challenge](#), [free museum days](#), and [the NYC Summer Guide for Kids](#).

No matter what you decide to do, we recommend you take a few moments to ask students for their feedback on your class. This could look like a class discussion where students share their personal highlights and recommendations for the future or an independent reflection through an end-of-the-year survey or written feedback. Their insights could serve as inspiration for your professional goals during the 2016-17 school year.

**Thank you for your dedication to educating NYC students this year!**

