Whole Brain Teaching

“Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.”
-Benjamin Franklin

Wholebrainteaching.com

Presented by
Shila Heeter and Nicole Efird
What is Whole Brain Teaching?

• What motivated you to sign up for the workshop?
• What do you know about Whole Brain?
• Do you use Whole Brain in the classroom? If so, explain.
• What do you wish to gain from the workshop?
What is Whole Brain Teaching?
- A collection of structured and routine classroom management and teaching strategies
- Brain Based and research supported

Whole Brain Teaching is a highly structured system, with a clearly laid out set of techniques that can be restructured, mixed, matched, and redesigned to fit individual teachers.
Setting the Norms

- Stay positive, be open
- Follow directions quickly
- Be respectful to others and their ideas
- Participate!
- Keep us a happy presenters
Objectives

1. First half of workshop-
   - Introduce, explain, become experts on “The Big 7” strategies used in Whole Brain
   - Model team teaching and one teach, one assist

2. Second half of workshop-
   - Collaborate with colleagues to discuss and develop common procedures to use in your classroom
   - Model parallel teaching
Walk out happy!

Ask questions, take notes, email me.

sheeter@gocats.org
nefird@gocats.org
How to make Whole Brain Successful in your Classroom:

- Be consistent
  - Be positive, develop relationships, love your job
  - Control your temper
  - Be organized, maximize time, minimize disruptions
  - “Grow or die”- learn, change, try

“There is a direct correlation between the effectiveness of a classroom management system and an instructor’s enthusiastic implementation of the system.”
The Big 7—Your Daily Teaching Tools

1. Class, Yes
2. Teach, Okay
3. Classroom Rules
4. Hands and Eyes
5. The Scoreboard
6. Switch
7. Mirror
“The Attention Getter”
Class- Yes!

Purpose: Quickly and effectively get the attention of your entire class

Directions: To gain the students’ attention, the teacher says “Class!” or a variation of the word “class” and students respond with “Yes!”
Script for teaching “Class, Yes”

Teacher: (In a firm, happy, commanding tone of voice with a smile.) Please look at me! I am [name]. I’m delighted you are here and in my class this year! (Don’t answer questions now...keep saying, “I’ll answer questions later.”) When I say, “Class!” you say, “Yes!”...Class!

Students: Yes!
Teacher: However I say, “Class!” you say, “Yes!”...Class, class!
Students: Yes, yes!
Teacher: (Using a low voice) Claaaasss!
Students: (Mimicking the teacher’s low voice) Yessss!
Teacher: (Using a high voice) Claaaaassss!
Students: (Mimicking the teacher’s high voice) Yesssss!
Teacher: Classsity, class!
Students: Yesssity, yes!
Teacher: Whenever I say, “Class!” and you respond...your hands should also be folded in the listening position...Class!
Students: Yes! (Many students will have folded hands.)
Teacher: Class, class!
Students: Yes, yes! (More students will be at listening position.)
**“The Whole Brain Activator” Teach-Okay**

**Purpose:** Involve students in learning by engaging five brain areas

**Directions:** Teacher talks in short chunks, gives the cue “teach” and students reply “ok” and repeat/paraphrase the micro-lecture. Move around the room to monitor students’ comprehension.

**Brain Toy: The “because” clapper**
“The Whole Brain Activator”
Teach-Okay
Common concerns with Teach-Okay:

1. Students are mechanically repeating what the teacher has said.
2. Does not allow students to generate questions.
3. Some students may begin talking to their neighbors about other issues.
“The Organizer”
Five Classroom Rules

Purpose: Set the expectations for student behavior.

Directions: Rehearse class rules at least once a day with gestures.

1. Follow Directions Quickly
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak
3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seats
4. Make smart choices
5. Keep your dear teacher happy!
3

“The Organizer”

Five Classroom Rules
"The Focuser"
Hands and Eyes

Purpose: Totally focus your class and gain maximum attention

Directions: Teacher says “hands and eyes” and students respond “hands and eyes” while folding arms and giving teacher eye contact.
5  "The Motivator"

The Scoreboard

Purpose: Motivate students to work hard!

Directions: Frequently reward points for positive behavior and penalize for negative behavior. Observe the plus/minus 3 rule.
"The Involver"

Switch

Purpose: Get your yackers to listen and your listeners to yack!

Directions: Number pairs of students with a 1 or 2. During “Talk- Ok”, ones talk first and twos listen. Call out “switch” and twos talk and ones listen.

Brain Toy: Listening gestures and high five switch!
"The Class-Unifier" Mirror

Purpose: Activate the motor cortex, get students engaged and eager to participate.

Directions: Teacher calls out “mirror”, students reply with “mirror”. Teacher explains content using gestures and students mirror teachers gestures.

**Used in conjunction with teach-ok**
7 "The Class-Unifier" Mirror
Whole Class Response
Other Levels of WBT Classroom Management

- Super Improvers Team
- Practice Cards
- The Guff Counter
- The Independents
- The Bull’s Eye Game
- The Agreement Bridge
1. Class, Yes
2. Teach, Okay
3. Classroom Rules
4. Hands and Eyes
5. The Scoreboard
6. Switch
7. Mirror
Daily Classroom Procedures—Whole Brain Style

- Lining Up
- Opening Books
- Handing out papers
- Asking questions during a lesson (The Grabber)
- Pencils
- Lowering the noise level

The “Three-peat”!
Common Classroom Procedures

- Collaborate and discuss the procedures listed
- Share procedures you have observed or implemented
  - Share both successful and unsuccessful
- Use your notes sheet to document procedures you want to implement in your classroom!
- Discuss the first few days of school.
  - What procedures will you teach and how do you plan on teaching your procedures?