

YOUR PERSONAL LEARNING GUIDE FOR

# STARTING STRONG

*in the First 60 Days  
of the School Year*

By **Robert L. DeBruyn**

Author of *THE MASTER TEACHER Weekly Pd PROGRAM*

# VOLUME 1

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# About The Author

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Internationally known author and presenter, Robert L. DeBruyn is the founder of THE MASTER TEACHER®. He has written *THE MASTER TEACHER* publication since founding the organization in 1969. Over 1,500 issues and one half-billion copies of his weekly program of staff development have been sold—making him one of the most widely read educational authors in the world. *THE MASTER TEACHER Weekly Pd PROGRAM* has been used by teachers and administrators in all 50 states, every province of Canada, and 25 other countries.

DeBruyn is a powerful speaker who has worked extensively with students, teachers, and administrators through workshops and seminars, and as a keynote speaker in the areas of discipline, motivation, leadership and management. His messages reveal a deep commitment to children and a great respect for the work of teachers and administrators.

DeBruyn is a senior editor to *The Board*, a semimonthly training program for school board members. He is one of the creators of *Northstar for Principals*, a monthly publication for principals, and *Galileo for Superintendents*, a monthly publication for superintendents.

He has authored and co-authored numerous books, such as four prominent books on student behavior including *You Can Handle Them All*, two influential books on educational leadership including *Causing Others to Want Your Leadership...for Teachers*; and a leading book on the most successful teacher characteristics and beliefs: *Voices from the Field: What Is a Master Teacher?*

His contribution to education has been honored by induction into the Kansas Teacher Hall of Fame.

## **Other titles authored or co-authored:**

Personal Learning Guides:

*Assessment*

*Creating the Environment to Maximize Student Learning*

*THE MASTER TEACHER's Secrets for Deepening Learning for All Students*

*Starting Strong in the First 60 Days of the School Year*

*Keeping the Momentum Strong in the Critical Middle of the School Year*

*Finishing Strong: the Last 60 Days of the School Year*

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# Introduction

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A superb beginning can make the difference between a good year and a disappointing year for you and students. One thing is certain: Getting off to a good start can help you do the thing you want most to do—teach. And a bad beginning can keep you from doing so.

This book focuses on a four-step learning process designed to enhance and further your professional growth: Learning/Planning, Action/Application, Reflection/Assessment, and Change/Adjustment. Reading each lesson and practicing the four-step learning process will help you grow professionally. Every step is important.

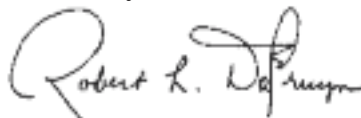
To actually acquire and remember knowledge, it's important to write what you learned as well as what you already knew. Likewise, it's essential to know what worked and didn't work—and to reflect on the learning process and make adjustments. When reflection is followed by adjustments, that is, what you will do differently as well as when you will do it, you will learn and grow from your professional experiences.

The lessons in this book are aligned with the domains and components of Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching, the Marzano Teacher Evaluation Model, and the Five Core Propositions for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. As you use the personal journal, you will find that it not only serves you during your first year in education, but can become your guidepost for the beginning of every school year throughout your career. Simply write your journal entry after reading each message, and apply what you've learned in the classroom.

As educators, we know our careers must center on lifelong learning as well as reflect the distinguishing characteristics of lifelong learners. Lifelong learners continue to learn, take action and apply what they have learned, review and reflect on the results of that application, and make adjustments that contribute to their professional improvement and growth. This book will help you achieve these goals.

You have my best wishes for a great start and a great career.

Sincerely,



Robert L. DeBruyn

Author of *THE MASTER TEACHER Weekly Pd PROGRAM*









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# Personal Learning Journal

This is your personal journal for the first 60 days of the school year. It focuses on a four-step learning process specifically designed to enhance lifetime learning. Every step is important. To actually acquire and remember knowledge, it's important to write what you learned as well as what you already knew. Likewise, it's essential to know what worked and didn't work—and to reflect. When reflection is followed by adjustments, that is, what you will do differently as well as when you will do it, long-term learning and improvement are enhanced.

As you use the personal journal, you will find that it not only serves you during your first year in education, but can become your guidepost for the beginning of every school year throughout your career. Simply write your journal entry after reading each message, and apply what you've learned in the classroom.

## I. Learning/Planning

a. What did I already know about this topic?

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b. What did I learn that was new?

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## II. Action/Application

a. What did I do that worked?

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b. What did I do that didn't work?

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c. What did I *not do*—and what happened?

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### III. Reflection/Assessment

a. What will I do with what I've learned from my experience?

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b. What do I still need to learn on this subject?

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c. How can I get this information?

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### IV. Change/Adjustment

a. What will I do differently the next time?

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b. When will I use what I've learned? (first day or week of school, before grade cards go out, etc.)

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c. What impact do I think it will have on my students and/or colleagues?

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