Whole Brain Teaching for Elementary Grades

*This information is only intended to show how we use WBT in our classrooms. We are not WBT certified trainers - we are in process of becoming certified. WBT materials are always free and can be found online.

**What is Whole Brain Teaching?**

Whole Brain Teaching (developed by Chris Biffle, Jay Vanderfin, and Chris Rekstad) is a classroom management and teaching system that engages multiple areas of students’ brains. We have utilized this system in our respective classrooms for two years with great success, even with challenging students (either academically or behaviorally).

Whole Brain Teaching (WBT) has been used by instructors in every state and in 200 countries around the world. Students learn best when they participate in learning through seeing, hearing, doing, and speaking. WBT lessons begin with memory gestures and are followed by students being able to summarize the new concept with a partner. When students have a basic understanding, the teacher can then expand the lesson into higher level critical thinking.

WBT is very effective when targeting multiple intelligences, because it encompasses kinesthetic, oral, auditory, and visual learning styles.

**Research:**

Teaching to the whole brain requires establishing rituals and routines, stimulating emotions and allowing students to become active learners. Whole brain teaching in today’s classroom incorporates gestures, music, singing, and technology-based projects.

The basis for Whole Brain Teaching problem classroom, which led to new way of teaching. Students the learning. WBT tries to engage both time (creative and logical sides).

God created each person strengths and weaknesses. This uniquely, with his/her own system allows all students to be involved and able to succeed in the classroom. Successes are celebrated and struggles are accepted as part of learning. God has given each person various abilities, and using WBT, students can learn from each other.

Left-hemisphere brain functions include reasoning, reading, written language, number skills and spoken language. Right-hemisphere brain functions include imagination, intuition, art awareness, three-dimensional forms and music awareness.

Matthew 13:34 shows us that Jesus used parables to help his followers understand difficult concepts. In the same way, WBT teaches material in a diverse way engaging multiple areas of the brain.

More information can be found online by searching Whole Brain Teaching.
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Here are a list of some helpful free resources we have used over the years:

**Some of our favorites:**

- Kate Bowski (Northeast Region Director for WBT and 3rd grade teacher in Delaware): [http://www.youtube.com/user/KMBowski](http://www.youtube.com/user/KMBowski)
- Stephanie Van Horn (3rd grade teacher) [http://www.3rdgradethoughts.com/](http://www.3rdgradethoughts.com/)
- Sarah Meador (Executive Board Member, National Trainer for WBT of America and HS Science Teacher): [http://wbtforme.blogspot.com/](http://wbtforme.blogspot.com/)
- Nancy Stoltenberg (Director of WBT Certification, retired 2nd grade teacher) [http://nstoltenbergwbt.blogspot.com/](http://nstoltenbergwbt.blogspot.com/)

**Additional Resources:**

- WBT (youtube): [http://www.youtube.com/ChrisBiffle](http://www.youtube.com/ChrisBiffle)
- WBT Website: wholebrainteaching.com
- Also on these sites: Facebook, Pinterest, Periscope, Twitter (@WBTWednesdays), Teachers Pay Teachers, and various teaching blogs.