

RETHINKING Behavior

Winter 2024
VOLUME 7
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William Morse
Richard Whelan

Relax, Mrs. Stott!

**The Essence of
Friendship**

A Call to Listen

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Active Shooter Drills**

**1,591,473 Discipline
Discussions**

**Self-Determination
Matters**

**Strategies to Maximize
Engagement**

**Telling Isn't Teaching,
Saying Isn't Doing!**

**41 States Sue Meta
Over Social Media**

Weight You Carry

**A magazine for
professionals serving
children and youth with
behavioral needs.**



**Midwest Symposium
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Podcast

The Epic Classroom

Review by Sandy Shacklady-White

"Ideas, stories, and inspiration for creating and leading a more memorable and transformational classroom."

"Welcome to the Epic Classroom Podcast. My name is Trevor Muir and I like to talk about teaching, whether its from my own classrooms or ideas I've learned from other educators. I love to explore different ways to help students grow and thrive and for their educators to thrive as well. And so that's what I talk about on this podcast. Whatever you teach or however you serve in your schools, how can you lead a more impactful, dynamic, meaningful, and epic classroom?" (Opening to Episode #36)

This is how listeners of the podcast *The Epic Classroom with Trevor Muir* will be warmly and enthusiastically greeted by Trevor at the start of nearly every episode. Trevor is a passionate educator who was a secondary language arts/English teacher. He now facilitates learning with preservice teachers at Grand Valley State University in Michigan as a keynote speaker and as a consultant for schools across the nation. His pursuit is to bring positive change to unlock the potential of every student and every adult involved in their educational journey.

Trevor is also an author, blogger, and vlogger. He has published two books: *The Epic Classroom: How to Boost Engagement, Make Learning Memorable, and Transform Lives* (2017) and *The Collaborative Classroom: Teaching Students How to Work Together Now and for the Rest of Their Lives* (2019). He uses the word 'epic' to describe a classroom rich with opportunities for memorable long-lasting learning through narratives and storytelling. According to Trevor,

learning must be made memorable for it to stick. For too long our traditional education system has relied heavily on

a cycle of teacher lectures where students write the information down, take a test, forget the content, and begin the cycle once again. Trevor suggests and encourages a project-based approach to learning that uses the power of storytelling and brain science to solicit student engagement. He recommends activities that are appropriately challenging, authentic, and relevant for students at any level so the learning will be memorable and permanent.

Starting the podcast in January 2022, Trevor set out to use his experiences and those of others he has encountered in his career to share strategies to transform schools and classrooms. At the core of his episodes and of his overall work is the importance of building positive rapport with students. He shares his experiences, both the successes and failures. In his descriptions of his varied experiences, Trevor uses storytelling with exuberance and passion, to convey what he has learned so his listeners can visualize and grasp what the intention is - to transform our classrooms for the benefit of all our youth. Currently his podcast is rated a 4.9 out of 5 stars on Apple Podcasts.

Trevor has over 37 episodes posted. He records in his local public library's podcast room. All episodes are 34 minutes or less, many of them being 20-25 minutes. The listener can 'catch' Trevor's positivity in these brief episodes, whether in the car, on the train, on a walk, in the classroom, or wherever one



enjoys a high energy podcast. Anyone working in our schools in this era of challenges will feel uplifted by Trevor's messages. Each episode focuses on a topic with Trevor telling a real-life story or stories to convey the lesson he learned and wishes to share with his podcast subscribers. He hooks the listener with his narrative and weaves in the key points in an extremely natural manner. While he appears to have an outline for each episode, it is not purely scripted which makes it especially enjoyable.

To give you a flavor of Trevor's content, I recommend the following episodes. Specifically, if you are a teacher of students with learning differences, including those presenting with behavior challenges, Episode #36 and Episode #20 are great places to start your venture into Trevor's podcast.

The Epic Classroom with Trevor Muir is a must-listen for educators. Trevor is engaging, enthusiastic and speaks from his heart as a teacher. Through his storytelling approach, he offers insights into the life

of working with students on a daily basis and suggests practical strategies that can be implemented in any school and/or classroom. The episodes are easy going, well-structured, informative, and entertaining. Bottom line, Trevor "gets it". I highly recommend *The Epic Classroom* to those who wish to be inspired, to gain new ideas, to have their work validated, and to be encouraged to keep doing this hard yet rewarding work with our youth.

Tune in and enjoy!

Please note: The podcast does not explicitly cite the use of evidence-based practices. It is anecdotal in nature and based Trevor's professional experiences.

Sandy Shacklady-White, Educational Consultant, Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), Malvern, PA, sshackladywhite@pattankop.net

Episode Title	Description
<i>Creating a Positive & Engaging Classroom Climate</i> #36 (August 15, 2023)	Let's talk about creating a classroom climate that helps make students feel safe, secure, and ready to engage in this year.
<i>The Hardest Part about Teaching</i> #33 (April 6, 2023)	Trevor describes his many efforts to connect with a student he had in his high school classroom. The student was often disruptive and not engaged in learning. Anything Trevor tried did not work and then the student moved away.
<i>Teaching How to Give and Receive Critical Feedback</i> # 31 (March 3, 2023)	Giving critical feedback can be a very difficult task. Receiving such feedback can be even harder, especially for students. It is the job of the teacher to model this process and show how being critical can be different than being negative. Trevor shares the Tuning Protocol that is part of the Project Based Learning (PBL) framework to use with any content and any age level.
<i>Ditching Teaching Practices That Don't Work</i> #23 (November 2, 2022)	Educators are so often given new ideas and strategies to get better at what we do, but we don't have space for them. There's got to be room to grow, and sometimes that means making room by discarding practices that aren't working like they used to, or never worked and you are finally realizing that.
<i>Not Taking It Personal (When a Student Says They Hate You)</i> #20 (September 15, 2022)	It's easier said than done to not take it personal when students say hurtful things. But what if it's not actually personal? In this episode Trevor discusses how to respond to a student when they are deliberately trying to irritate and how we can approach our work despite not being liked by every student.