

Life as a beginning teacher can be difficult, but I can honestly say it pales in comparison to life as a beginning principal. A principal's first year is often stressful, overwhelming and excruciating. **Vickie Burke** at Julia R. Ewan and **Heather Bell** at Maxwell elementary schools have helped me through such a rough time. What is amazing about these leaders is their willingness to share with someone outside of Fayette County. I am a beginning principal in Bourbon County and have been blessed with the help and encouragement of these two leaders. Their willingness to take my phone calls at any time and share their ideas and encouragement has been invaluable as I lead my staff. It is through the help of others that we are able to push students reach their academic success, no matter what school or county they attend. It is been a welcome oasis to me to know that help and advice is only an e-mail away. Thank you, Vickie and Heather, for your professionalism, expertise and love. Fayette County is lucky to have leaders like the two of you. You exemplify the spirit of "Fred."

-- Submitted by Gerry Brooks, principal in Bourbon County