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Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from "When I Started Teaching, I Wish I Had Known...".

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LETTER TO BEGINNING TEACHERS

Dear Beginning Teachers,

This is a book of wisdom from experienced teachers who have come before you. Our wisdom is offered to you as a gift to support your growth and enhance your success in the classroom. We all know that learning how to teach takes many years. It also requires us to pay attention to the ways in which we manage our time, our classrooms, our students, and our own self-care.

One of my mentors, Roland S. Barth, wrote a book titled *Improving Schools From Within: Teachers, Parents, and Principals Can Make the Difference*. This book profoundly influenced my perspective on my role as a teacher. Not only did it inspire me to share ideas, reach out for help when I needed it, and eventually become a teacher leader, but it also made me feel important. It made me realize I could make decisions and improve the school from my classroom.

As educators, we often get advice from people who are *outside* of our classrooms. What we need today is advice and wisdom from other teachers who have been *inside* the classroom. This is where the true wisdom of our profession lives.

The most powerful form of learning, the most sophisticated form of staff development, comes not from listening to the good words of others but from sharing what we know with others. . . .

By reflecting on what we do, by giving it coherence, and by sharing and articulating our craft knowledge, we make meaning and learn.

~ Roland S. Barth (1986)

It has been a great honor to read the stories, the practical tips, and the self-care advice from the experienced teachers who graciously submitted their wisdom to this book. Their craft knowledge demonstrates how much we know and how much is hidden from us if we don't share our ideas with each other.

Stay connected to your heart, and remember why you chose this profession.

Carol