

Preface

My goal of helping teachers has remained the same for over a decade. I have introduced teachers from across the United States to the best practices in elementary schools. The success of *Best Classroom Practices: What Award-Winning Elementary Teachers Do* has led to *MORE Best Practices for Elementary Teachers: What Award-Winning Teachers Do*. This book provides teachers with a new smorgasbord of information.

There is endless information out there and it can take hours to find just what you are looking for. This book makes it easy. It is full of valuable lessons from outstanding teachers. These teachers are the ones highlighted in journals and magazines and the ones who win grants, fellowships, and contests. These are the Teachers of the Year, National Educator Award winners, recipients of the Milken Family Foundation award, and ING Unsung Heroes—and the list continues. I wanted to talk to them and hear about what they are doing. I wanted to know what makes them outstanding and what they are doing in their classrooms.

This book is the product of sharing at its best and is organized in four parts. Part I highlights classroom practices across the curriculum. Topics include classroom management, creative scheduling, community involvement, differentiating instruction, and using technology in classrooms. A sample of the lessons in Part I are *Building the Atmosphere*, *Differentiation Using Story Cubes*, and *Technology for a Varied and More Interesting Classroom*. Part II focuses on science and math. Lessons include *Using Mysteries to Teach Science Inquiry* and *Math-A-Thon*. Part III addresses teaching reading and writing. *Nonfiction Guided Reading Lesson* and *Multigenre Writing* are just a few of the practices addressed. Finally, Part IV has a variety of lessons on social studies, music, art, and physical education, spanning topics like *Cultural Diversity in Our Community: Past and Present*, *Inaugural Poetry Through Elementary School Publications*, and *Celebrating Music*.

I hope you enjoy each submission with the same enthusiasm and excitement that I did. Thanks to the tremendously giving educators across the United States, *MORE Best Practices for Elementary Classrooms: What Award-Winning Teachers Do* will give you an inside view of education practices and exemplary lesson plans.