

*Philippians 3:13 “Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.”*

Opening a new box of shoes. A blank sheet of paper. A sunrise. All these signals a new beginning, a fresh start, a promise of things to come. One of my favorite things about being a teacher is getting a reboot. What a perk of our job to begin anew each school year! We can forget the student discipline issue we had last year, the conflict with a certain parent, the frustration of a lesson gone wrong. Last school year is over. Dust off the cobwebs. Wipe the slate clean. We have a new beginning, a fresh start!

It's nice to have the reminder that as Christians we, too, have a fresh start every day. Our past sins are gone, wiped away by Christ's blood. God looks at us as new creatures, forgiven and loved. What a joy to know that God doesn't hold a grudge or judge us according to what we've done wrong in the past. He looks at us through Jesus and sees only his beautiful, blessed creations. We have a new beginning, a fresh start!

August is exciting! Look forward to opening fresh school supplies, discovering novel ideas on Pinterest, creating a vibrant classroom learning environment and planning innovative lessons. Be thrilled to meet unknown students who you have the opportunity to mold, shape and mentor. Embrace the meeting of new parents who you will guide through the year ahead. Be thankful for a fresh start in your classroom. Rejoice in the knowledge that you are forgiven and new in the eyes of our Savior. The 2018-19 school year has begun. You have a new beginning, a fresh start!