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TIPS FOR HATCHING

1. Select an area of the classroom with minimal temperature change - not directly under a vent or next to window or doorway. Plug in the incubator and put water in the trough. Fill about 1/4 full.
2. Regulate the incubator temperature to 99.5 degrees. Adjust each hour until the temperature is steady. Consistent temperature & humidity are key.
3. The eggs will be delivered and set on a Tuesday or Wednesday so the chicks will hatch during the school week.
4. The eggs/chicks will be set with the large end up.
5. Three days after the eggs are set, pull both red vent plugs out and leave them out.
6. The automatic turner will take about 4 hours to turn the eggs.
7. Three days before the eggs are to hatch, remove them from the turner and remove the turner from the incubator. Lay the eggs on their side on the wire and increase the temperature to 101 degrees.
8. You can check to see if the chicks are developing by holding the egg up to a bright light. Don't leave it more than 3-4 seconds!
9. Don't open the incubator very often. The chicks can stay in the incubator up to 24 hours after they hatch or until they are strong enough to stand on their own. If they have trouble standing, they will probably not live.
10. When the chicks hatch, put them in a large box and cover the bottom with small gravel, a thin layer of dirt, or chick starter.
11. Use a light to keep them warm. Do not use a bulb larger than 40 watts, or they will get too hot and possibly die.
12. Make sure they have plenty of fresh water. To water them, it is best to take a jar lid and place marbles in the bottom and fill with water. This prevents the chicks from drowning.
13. The chicks need to be fed chick start, which is available at any feed store. You can also use this as their substrate so that they have constant access to food.
14. **You must clean out the incubator with warm water and a mild anti-bacterial soap when done! Do NOT use any harsh cleansers. Bird feces contain bacteria - wear disposable gloves when cleaning. The incubator must be returned clean!**
15. **Please be careful not to throw away any of the incubator/turner parts. You are responsible for any missing items at the end of the program.** Each incubator will have the following: a top and bottom piece, 2 red plugs, thermometer, turner, wire bottom. Some will have a clear plastic liner in the trough.

Hope you have a great hatch!