

# Preface to the Third Edition

**2**010 marks a challenging time in the education of children in this nation. The last decade was one that will be recognized by an increase in accountability, practices and policies related to No Child Left Behind (2008), the exciting new uses of technology in the classroom intended to inspire and challenge a new generation of learners, a greater diversity in the ethnic and cultural makeup of our schools, and a new focus on *professional learning communities*.

The economic strain we are currently experiencing has taken a toll on the youngest members of our population. Increased cutbacks in school funding have affected all aspects of education for our youngest to oldest students. Reduced class size is becoming a remnant of the past. Teachers are faced with greater academic expectations and an increase in desired student outcomes, continued scrutiny of teacher effectiveness, and greater accountability, while they are being given more students in the classrooms with the expectation to differentiate instruction for all learners.

The third edition of *The New Elementary Teacher's Handbook* contains new material taking into account this changing context of education. The *Handbook* realistically discusses the challenges elementary classroom teachers face today. New resources have been added to the end of each chapter to provide practical, ready-to-use ideas for new teachers. Current references, websites, and book lists add to the relevancy of teaching in today's classrooms.

New teachers are diamonds in the rough. As new teachers, you bring new energy, enthusiasm, hope, optimism, ideas, idealism, and commitment to the profession. As your experience builds, your teaching becomes enhanced through your experiences and new knowledge. We, as veteran teachers and mentors, need to keep your spirit alive, support you in the best way we can, and realize the enormous value and contribution you make in the education of our most precious commodity—the children in this nation.