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Spring 2012 PROFILE OF AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER

1. Passion.
   1. Passion for the subject of science and for teaching should radiate from your teaching to every student in the classroom. Passion for life should also be seen by your students in everything you do.
      * If you do not show passion for what you are teaching, how are your students supposed to get interested in the subject matter? Showing excitement and making things that have the preconceived notion of being boring, into something that is fun to learn will make for a happy and healthy classroom. Being passionate about life and always showing a positive attitude can give your students hope and make you someone they trust and want to come to in times of trouble, not only in school but personal issues they may have no one else to come to with.
2. Knowledgeable.
   1. The teacher must be a master of their subject in order to convey their message to their students. The teacher should also be knowledgeable in all aspects that affect their students’ life.
      * The teacher needs to be completely knowledgeable in order to help students understand in the most simplistic way possible. Also if a teacher is knowledgeable about their student’s, they will be better able to relate to them and help them out individually.
3. Flexibility.
   1. A teacher needs to be able to help show students a topic from multiple different angles. They also should be flexible in their hours to help students whenever possible.
      * Not all students learn in the same manner, so a teacher needs to be able to offer a subject at all different angles to help the students understand the subject. Also, a teacher being available for students whenever they need help is extremely helpful and needed in a student’s career. Being able to come in for help at multiple hours can help when students are involved with multiple other activities with school.
4. Connections.
   1. Connecting with your student’s will allow for a better learning environment and better trust within the students. Also making connections between your content knowledge and the real work is highly important.
      * A teacher should make an individual personal connection with each of their students. Doing this well help the teacher to learn the student’s learning techniques as well as build a level of trust, making students believe they are not just a name on a list. Just learning your students name early on will help run things smoothly. Also, if students realize what they are learning connects to them and isn’t just something in a science book, students will be more eager to learn the subject matter.
5. Respect.
   1. You need to give respect to receive it. Your students will respect you more if you respect them.
      * Students should be treated like adults until given reason for some sort of discipline. You will more likely be respected as a teacher if you give your students respect. Answers students give should be considered in all aspect before harshly grading, especially if a student is brave enough to answer a question aloud in class, they should be responded to respectfully, even if they answer is incorrect.
6. Confidence.
   1. A teacher needs to stand if front of their classroom with full confidence. You should present yourself and your lessons with poise and confidence when standing in front of a classroom.
      * Students are able to sense a lack of confidence and they will try to take advantage. You need to have confidence in yourself, in your speech, and in your presentation. Students are not likely to take you seriously if you act like you don’t know what you’re talking about. This will present discipline problems in the classroom.
7. Organization.
   1. A teacher needs to be highly organized with their planning, teaching, and classroom. Organization will allow for a smooth running classroom.
      * Planning ahead of time for your lesson is absolutely necessary before stepping foot into your classroom. You should know how you will teach the lesson, the time increments, and what types of questions your will be asking. If you are organized in your style of teaching, students will learn your style of teaching which makes it easier for them to learn. Also being organized within the classroom itself, such as discipline methods, will allow for better classroom management.
8. Creativity.
   1. As a teacher, especially a science teacher, creativity should be key in the classroom seen through lessons using fun activities and labs. In order to reach all types of learners, creativity is needed to incorporate all of that in a classroom.
      * Most students being younger have a descent sense of creativity and enjoy expressing it. Being able to create a fun learning environment with fun activities for the students will help them to learn the content better and allow them to be more engaged. It usually helps all different types of learners to mix up your teaching techniques; from hands-on to lecturing.
9. Patience.
   1. Patience is a virtue. Having patients will make it easier on yourself as well as your students.
      * Some days will be easier than others, but most of the time, some of your students will not understand the topic. You need to be patient with them, since what seems easy to you is an entirely new concept for them. Also, when students are misbehaving, you should still have patience because some students like to push you and see what reactions they can get.
10. Humor.
    1. Having a good sense of humor makes life more enjoyable. If you have fun with the students and show a good attitude, they are more likely to listen and be engaged.
       * A teacher shouldn’t be a comedian, but engaging the students by giving and taking jokes makes learning more entertaining for the students. When students are entertained and not looking at learning like a chore, they are more likely to learn more successfully. Bringing more joy to the classroom makes everyone happy. They should point out fun and silly situations, make jokes, tell stories, and make a difficult topic seem more possible to grasp.