

LOVE FOR TEACHING

by:

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Being an educator should not be a job but a passion and teacher who has no love for teaching should understand that they are not only affecting themselves negatively but their students too.

I have been teaching for 20 years now. I did not love it when I first started, I wanted to be in the medical field yet I ended up pursuing a career in education because it is what we could afford at the time. Nevertheless, I learned to develop a passion for teaching- working at other jobs made me realize that I prefer it. Seeing students learn and grow under my guidance brought me a sense of happiness that I could find anywhere else.

Throughout these years I have learned- and I am still learning about new methods and concepts that make teaching easier. Of course, they aren't set in stone, but they helped me flourish in my career.

First and foremost, we should love our students as if they are our children. It isn't the easiest burden to bear but we need to understand that students are under our protection, care, and guidance. Not caring about them will result in an unhealthy and ineffective environment for teaching. Students notice when teachers don't care for them, and it takes a toll on their performance. It is stated in multiple studies that a positive student-teacher relationship will make students prioritize learning, therefore boosting their abilities to both perform in class and in real-world situations. According to Krstić, K. (2015), there is a growing number of researches indicating that the socioemotional well-being of students in school and the quality of student-teacher interaction are essential for school adaptation, learning, and school achievement.

Second, we need to understand that students are different individuals. They have different personalities and learning styles. If we do not keep this in mind and we only cater to a certain type of student, everyone else will feel left out. It will affect their self-worth and it might result in poorer performance in class. I've learned that the best way to cater to individual differences among learners is to provide different types of discussions and activities. It can be writing an essay, creating a jingle, or even something quirky such as soap carving. According to Tulbure (2011), students with different learning styles achieve better learning outcomes when confronted with teaching strategies that respond to their learning preferences.

Lastly, we need to give our hundred percent as educators. It is not only for us but our students, the lessons we give are preparation for the life that awaits each and every last one of them. There should never be a moment that we don't give the best of our abilities because, at the end of the day, there is no one else that educates students as much as we do.

Teaching is the art of bestowing wisdom upon students and bringing out the best in them. We, educators, are their second family and we have a massive impact on them just like they do on us. We need to strive for improvement, to make up for the things we lack. We need to understand that by being the best version of ourselves, students will follow in our footsteps.

References:

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