

The Teacher As a Professional

EDF 103

Introduction to Education

Topics of Discussion

- Profession—a vocation or occupation requiring advanced education and training and involving intellectual skills. The work is based on unique knowledge and skills grounded in research and practice in the field.
- Professional— has completed higher education, usually at the advanced level, and engages in and is worthy of the high standards of a profession.
- Professions and Professionals answer to a written code of ethics.

“Teaching is a profession laden with risk and responsibility that requires a great deal from those who enter into it.”

--John I. Goodlad

A Professional Educator Should:

- **WORK** in a collegial manner with colleagues
- **ASSOCIATE** with and learn from positive mentors
- **JOIN** a professional organization
- **CONTINUE TO LEARN** through classes, workshops, conferences, in-service meetings, books, journals, tapes, and advanced degrees.

The Four Beliefs of an Effective Teacher

- It is the teacher who makes the difference in the classroom.
- By far the most important factor in school learning is the ability of the teacher.
- There is an extensive body of knowledge about teaching that must be known by the teacher.
- The teacher must be a decision maker able to translate the body of knowledge about teaching into increased student learning.

-- Madeline Hunter

**STUDENTS WILL FORGET
MOST OF WHAT YOU
TEACH THEM, BUT WILL
REMEMBER *HOW* YOU
MADE THEM *FEEL* IN
YOUR CLASS!**

**The effective teacher
dresses appropriately as
a professional educator
to model success.**

**As you are dressed, so shall you
be perceived;
and as you are perceived,
so shall you be treated.**

What is Appropriate Dress?

You expect your students to use appropriate English, write papers using an appropriate form, and display appropriate behavior and manners.

RIGHT?

Then you should understand about appropriate dress.

What's OUT

- Running shoes are for jogging or mall-walking.
- Sweatshirts are best left for exercise.
- T-shirts are for the beach.
- Stretch slacks are unbecoming.
- Bold prints, plaids, colors are no no's.
- Trendy clothes do not establish authority and should be left to students.
- Anything blue denim should be worn only on Saturdays.
- Excessive jewelry is distracting.

--Harry Wong

What's IN

- Bright colors are enjoyed by elementary students.
- Soft muted tones are recommended for secondary school.
- Men can't miss with suits and ties or a sweater or coat and a dress shirt.
- A career dress or suit is appropriate for women.
- Clean clothes convey good hygiene.
- Pressed clothes tell people you care.
- Neat, cleanly tailored career clothes establish authority.
- Career clothes prepare students for future in the competitive global world economy.

--Harry Wong

The TRUTH About Teachers

- Teachers are highly respected by society.

NATIONAL CREDIBILITY INDEX™

Supreme Court Justice – 81.3

Teacher – 80.7

National Expert – 78.6

Member of armed forces – 73.0

Local business owner – 72.2

Ordinary citizen – 71.8

Local religious leader – 71.8

High-ranking military officer – 71.7

School official – 71.3

National religious leader – 69.2

Network TV news anchor – 66.8

Representative for a local newspaper or TV station – 66.6

Reporter for a local newspaper or TV station – 65.8

National Civil Rights leader – 65.6

U.S. Senator – 64.2

Wall Street Executive – 57.9

U.S. President – 56.9.

The TRUTH About Teachers

- In 2007, 29% of adults 25 yrs. old and over had completed a bachelors degree, but all teachers have one. We are an intelligent group of people.
- The teaching profession is the ONLY profession in which over half of its members have voluntary advanced degrees. As of 1994, some 60 percent of the teachers had degrees beyond a bachelor's degree. **Teachers are the intellectual elite of America.**
- Every tenured teacher has a teaching credential. Teachers are an intelligent, certified, licensed, and competent group of people.

-U.S. Department Education, National Center for Education Statistics

Teachers Are Not downtrodden and poor

- Number of public school teachers in KY: 43,788
- Average US household income: \$66,570 a year
- Average annual salary: \$46,417 in KY (US = \$46, 800)
- 80% have done postgraduate work
- Heavy users of premium credit cards and are more than twice as likely to have an American Express Gold Card than a regular card
- Avid readers who read quality publications
- 99 percent have taken one or more trips outside the continental United States
- **66%** = The percentage of school children using a computer at home to complete school assignments. (2003)
- 90% of teachers own homes or condominiums
- 84% of teachers are married

By the Numbers...

- **95,615** = Number of public elementary and secondary schools.
- **6.8 million** = Number of teachers in the United States in 2007.
- **1.1 million** = Number of students who are home schooled. (That is 2 percent of all students ages 5 to 17.)
- **14.2 million** = Number of computers available for classroom use in the nation's 114,700 elementary and secondary schools as of the 2005-2006 school year. (That works out to one computer for every four students in 2007)
- **\$8,287 = Government Spending on Education.** (The per-pupil expenditure on elementary and secondary education nationally in 2004.)
- **10 million** = Number of school-age children (5 to 17) who speak a language other than English at home.



**Teachers are not in
private practice.**

**We are in the helping
and caring profession, a
service profession to
help people enhance the
quality of their lives.**

The Challenge



HALF-LIDDED,
CYNICAL EYES...

SLACK-JAWED
LOOK OF
BOREDOM...



OKAY,
I'M
READY.



The Good Ones... are Not at Home

Here they come! All precious and products of society.

55 million students enrolled in the nation's elementary and high schools (Grades K-12; 2006-2007)

- On any given night, at least **100,000** children are homeless.
- **82%** of incarcerated people are high school dropouts.
- Every year, approximately **1 million** teenage girls become pregnant.

The Good Ones... are Not at Home

- 135,000 American students bring guns to school every day. (2009)
- Homicide is the leading cause of death among minority youth aged 15 to 19.
- Reported child abuse increased 48% from 1986 to 1991.

Yet schools are doing a better job of educating our children than ever before.

As Larry Lezotte said, “The parents are sending us the best kids they have. They are not keeping the good ones at home.”

Children’s Data: National Commission on Children, 1995.

Each child is living the only life he has—the only one he will ever have.

The least we can do is not diminish it.

--Bill Page

I have come to a frightening conclusion .

I am the decisive element in the classroom.

It is my personal approach that creates the climate.

It is my daily mood that makes the weather.

As a teacher I possess tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous.

I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration.

I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal.

In all situations it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, and a child humanized or dehumanized.

--Haim Ginot, *Teacher and Child*.(1976). Avon Books.

BUT, REALISTICALLY,
CAN YOU REALLY MAKE
A DIFFERENCE? YES!

I AM ONLY ONE, BUT STILL *I AM ONE.*

I CANNOT DO EVERYTHING BUT STILL *I
CAN DO SOMETHING.*

I WILL NOT REFUSE TO DO THE

SOMETHING I CAN DO.

HELEN KELLER

One hundred years from now it will not matter

What kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
How much I had in the bank account,
Or what my clothes looked like.

**But the world will be a better
place because I was important
in the life of a child.**