

My philosophy of teaching

“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.” –William Arthur Ward

As an educational leader, my hope is to instill a passion for learning in my students through reflecting my love of teaching. I am a strong believer that in order to be good at something, you must love doing it. I teach because I love sharing my passions with others. Often times students will forget the many things you teach them in class, but they won't forget how you took a leap of faith to motivate them when they needed it most. It is only when we love what we do, that we are willing to go that extra mile. In every classroom, there will always be students who struggle with the curriculum. We must not forget about them and only focus on the students who excel in the class. In my opinion, successful students are not the ones who only excel, but are the ones who have developed a passion being there, love learning what they are being taught, value the curriculum, and likewise put incredible effort into what they do. Being in school is not just about the education, it is about what students can take away from the valuable learning experience provided to them by their teachers. Having said this, teachers need to set the example for their students. If you want to motivate your students to develop this passion for learning, then you have to show your passion for teaching.

The beauty of home economics

The history of home economics has always been referred back to the women who cooked, made clothes, and maintained a social environment. Without them, I wonder what our world would have become today. If people stopped valuing home cooked meals, stopped investing time in designing new clothes, and lacked social skills, then what is the meaning of our lives when we become so dependent on money to buy goods that we have lost the skills to do ourselves. Unfortunately, that is the reality for most people because their beliefs of home economics today have been clouded by the myths of the past. Home economics should be viewed as more than just a skill learned in the education system, but rather a life skill that will be a part of each and every person for the rest of their life. Isn't it rewarding when you can cook a gourmet dinner comparable to the standards of a 5-star hotel, make your own clothes like the ones bought in stores, and maintain strong relationships with family and friends? These are skills that we are certainly not born with. They are skills that we have acquired. The more we learn, the better we are at them. So then why do we throw these skills down the drain when they are such valuable parts of our lives? I can understand that times are changing. Fast and easy have become the new ways of doing things where we value quantity more than quality. But let us not forget that home economic skills should not be perceived as just old-fashioned. Home economics can be seen as valuable, empowering, and evolving with the next generations to come. In the past year, I have been to many restaurants that have won awards for innovative dishes or fusion style foods that have all been created by the chef. On the other hand, I have also enjoyed the restaurants that have served dishes made from fresh organic produce from the local farms. Then of course there are my favourite dishes specially prepared by my mother. If you ask me what all three examples have in common, the simple answer would be that they took the basic skill of cooking and changed it, personalized it, created something new and unique. The basics of cooking have always been here, never been lost. But by evolving recipes, we can learn

to appreciate that even cooking has evolved with our changing times. That it is not only a skill for women, but for everyone both at home and commercially. The same applies to making clothes. Each year we are exposed to new fashions, hooking consumers to keep purchasing clothes. Both the design and production of these garments require the knowledge and skills in textiles. So if my views on cooking and textiles have not convinced you enough to value the importance of both these skills because you can eat-out or purchase clothes, then surely learning to build relationships with others should spark an important place in your life because money cannot buy relationships. We are born to be social beings, meaning that we are meant to be interactive with others. Whether this includes your family, friends, coworkers, or even acquaintances, we need to learn how to communicate. However, communication is only one part of the relationship spectrum. We need to also learn how to maintain strong relationships with our family and friends. This requires patience, understanding, and a will to improve relationship bonds. If this is easy to say, but has always been hard to do, then wouldn't some education on family studies help guide people to improving their family situations of this current 21st century?

Our responsibilities

As teachers, I believe our job doesn't just end when we have completed teaching a chapter in the textbook, or perhaps finished marking all the exams. The job of a teacher not only entails teaching the prescribed curriculum, but it also encompasses how we are able to inspire our students through teaching. As educators, we need to build a teacher and student connection so that we can bridge the two worlds together. Get to know your students- know where they come from, their backgrounds, their culture, their talents, as well as their difficulties. Know them not as another number in your class, but know them by name and know who they are. I believe that providing a welcoming and encouraging environment is essential to learning. A place where no questions are thought of as stupid, and an attitude that judgmental behavior should not be fostered, is key to creating a safe and open environment for learning. Learning happens when we are not afraid to question. It is only when we are not afraid to inquire about our performance that we are able to excel forwards, to improve what we see as weaknesses, and to cater learning so that it is valuable for each student. Each student is unique and will learn differently. Aim to create multimodal lessons so that you can reach out to all the learning styles in your classroom. It is my belief that if children are separated from their real lives, they eventually lose touch with who they really are. So this comes back to my point earlier, that we must encourage our students to link what they learn at school with their real lives. Voices of these students need to be heard, and they need to be incorporated into the curriculum so that the learning process it is real and valuable for them. As a home economics teacher, our challenge is to help society overcome the stereotypes attached to this discipline. This means breaking those myths that have clouded peoples' perceptions. We do this by instilling a passion in our students to not only learn how to cook, make clothes, and to communicate with others, but to see the value in doing so. We motivate so that our students dig deeper than the surface home economic view, but see that this program is important and applicable for everyone. Perhaps some will follow our paths to become home economists themselves one day.

Thus my last words are these. We must understand that events in our classrooms today are the seeds of world events tomorrow. To carry on the value we see in home economics, we must portray its importance to our students. We need to reach out to every single student in our

classes, to both those exceling and struggling. Remembering that home economics is not just a skill, but that it is a valuable life skill. As teachers, we must plant in our next generations, seeds that contain a renewed love and inspiration for an education in Home Economics that lives and breathes.

References

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