

Sydney McClung
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My philosophy on teachers, students, the classroom, and how that effects our society

The first school in the United States was built in 1635. The focus was placed on reading, writing, and math. These concepts are crucial to living a worry-free life in this day and age. If you did not know how to read, how would you know what to buy at the grocery store, or what medicines you need to buy your sick family members? How would you be able to fill out paperwork? If you did not know how to write, how would you be able to sign your name on a lease for a house or an apartment? How would you fill out a job application? If you did not know how to do the math, how would you know how much money to give a waitress in a restaurant or how much money you needed to pay all of your bills for the month? Without school, we may not know how to do any of these simple tasks that are necessary for everyday life.

I believe that without school our society would not be nearly as advanced as it is today, but what if we had schools and no teachers? Teachers instill knowledge into the future generations. Without teachers, none of us would be the people that we are today. Teachers help to mold us and to shape us into the best person that we can be. Teachers invest an incredible amount of time in their students that is unlike most other professions. Most people can think of at least one teacher that has influenced them in a way that was unlike anyone else in their lives. They influence how we think and sometimes they even influence how we react to a situation because they have invested so much time into us that they have changed the way that we approach various circumstances. Teachers spend more waking hours with students than the students spend at home. This means that not only do teachers influence their students' academic development, but they also influence their emotional health. Teachers are counselors, mediators, family, and friends. They desire for students to become the best people that they can be, and they do everything in their power to help their students to achieve this goal.

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As a teacher, I believe that it is part of their job to be a positive role model for students. Students are still growing and learning so having a positive influence is crucial to their social and emotional development. Without a good role model, students may fall into patterns of behavior that will lead them down roads that do not lead to success. However, if they have someone that they can look up to in order to see good examples of character in various aspects of life, they may also find someone that they can trust to support them. Students need someone to rely on. They need someone that cares for them, and that expects greatness from them. This will help to encourage them to do their best in every aspect of their lives. Students are impressionable people who need great teachers in order to help facilitate their success because not all students have family and friends who care about their academic lives. Students are the future of our country and our world. They are the next generation, therefore, by not investing in them we are not only affecting their future, but also the future of others around us.

Even though the investment of teachers into students is crucial to the success of the student, the investment of family is also very important. I firmly believe that if a family pushes their student to the best of their abilities at home and a teacher pushes students to the best of their abilities at school that will help to make sure that students are reaching their full potential. However, if families are not supporting their student and making sure that they are working to reach their full potential, students are more likely to believe that the things that they do at school do not matter. In order to combat this, it is important for teachers to communicate their expectations to families. This is important so that families can support the things that the teacher is doing in the classroom in order to ensure their student's success and so that the teacher can be aware of the things that families are doing at home in order to facilitate the same success.

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Communication between teachers and families, however, is not going to create success, it will merely just help to facilitate the success that has begun in the classroom and at home.

I believe that teachers can begin to facilitate this success in various ways. One way that is crucial to ensuring that each student can reach his or her full potential is through the careful use of different learning styles. If teachers begin the year by having students fill out a survey that identifies their particular learning style, the teacher can then use that information to make sure that they have an equal number of assignments that cover each learning style represented in his or her classroom. By planning lessons that incorporate various learning styles, this ensures that students will learn the information being taught in a way that works best for them. This will help students to learn new topics more easily and to help avoid the need for memorizing information as opposed to truly learning it. Another way to facilitate this success is to have effective classroom management skills. When a teacher makes expectations and rules known and visible, this helps students to be reminded of how they are expected to behave. Consistency is also key to maintaining a well-managed classroom. If a teacher is not consistent in correcting behavior that will help students to be more well behaved because they will understand what consequences will be sure to follow their actions. With these practices teachers can have a great impact on the way that their classrooms run and how their students learn and behave.

Teachers have an incredible impact on how their students behave in their classroom, but they also impact the future of their students as well. Having a great teacher could change a student's entire life and impact the rest of their academic career. Teachers have the power to change the future of our country and our world.