

Ashleigh Campbell, Professor Wehmann, 10/18/17, #500

Teaching Platform

When I was younger I used to play "school" with my sister. I decided I was going to be the teacher and my sister was going to be the student. I was a seventh grader at the time and she was seven years old. I started teaching her things that I had learned in my classes, even though I knew she wasn't going to understand a lick of what I was saying. So, I start teaching her how to do my homework. Not only was it helping me understand my material a little better, I was also teaching her a few things here and there. When I started to realize she was learning from me I felt good because I achieved what I was trying to do, which was teach. This was the day I decided I wanted to become a real teacher. I want to be a teacher because I want to be a positive role model in children's lives. You never know what their home life is like, or what they are going through with friends. You also don't know how they are really feeling that day. I want to help them by being encouraging and having them feel like they have someone to turn to when they feel like they have no one on their side. I really want to change lives and watch the children grow while I educate them so one day they can be successful in the real world. A student's educational foundation is important for their future success. Teachers assume responsibility for professional growth, performance, and involvement as an individual and as a member of a learning community(standards). Teachers understand and use varied assessments to inform instruction, evaluate, and ensure student learning (standards). Teachers need to believe in their students so they feel like they can be successful in school (standards). Teachers need to know the content they

are teaching the students, this way the students feel confident they will learn the material (standards). Teachers collaborate and communicate with students, parents, other educators, administrators and community to support student learning (standards).

It is important teachers are honest, fair, and teach with integrity. This means teachers must treat all students equal, be open and honest with the children so they trust you, and stay strong in their morals so you stay consistent in the classroom. Treating students equal is very important. Showing favoritism isn't a very good thing to show your students. This is teaching them it's okay to look down on people for multiple different reasons. Just because a child is a boy or girl, black or white (or any other race), troubled or not troubled doesn't mean those are good "excuses" to treat kids differently. Being a teacher means you must accept others for who they are. This way the teacher leads by example and the students know how to treat one another.

Being honest with your students can really be beneficial for not only the students, but the teacher also. I believe if the teacher is up front and honest with the students, it will cause the students to feel more comfortable and they will be more likely to engage in class. I think the teacher benefits from this as well because once the students open up more and show the teacher they trust him/her, then the teacher can have more of a teacher-student relationship. This could help make a start to having a good foundation and a good classroom climate. I believe a teacher should teach with integrity because the students will know you know what you're talking about. The students, in my opinion, will be more obedient and will take you more seriously.

When I did research on this topic I came across a really good statement that ties in with what I have already hit on. The statement, good teacher-student relationships come from mutual respect and trust (Ecampustours.com). You want to teach with fairness and integrity because it helps with classroom climate (brighthubeducaton.com). I believe having a good classroom climate is very healthy for the students and the teachers. Classroom climate is the classroom environment, the social climate, the emotional and the physical aspects of the classroom (classroom climate). It's the idea that teachers influence student growth and behavior. A lot of what I researched was very similar to my own thoughts on the topic. It's important to dress for the job that you want or have. I like to think of the saying "dress for success" when I think of having a professional job. You want to look the part so not only the students take you seriously, but so do your colleagues. As a teacher you want to grow and learn from lessons that didn't go the way you hoped it would. This way when you teach it again you learn from your mistakes. You also want to show professional growth for your students and your relationship with them. You need to have a strong relationship so know how each individual student learns.

Using assessments in the classroom helps teachers understand which students get the material and which students don't get the material and need extra help. This means if a student understands the material then my lesson was effective for them and I taught it the way they can learn best. The students who don't get the material either need extra help or it lets the teacher know if they need to teach the child in a different way. There are different ways you can teach children. Some children are visual learners, others are hands on learners. Students can also be auditory or

even learn from doing physical activities. Not every student learns the same way.

My research told me having students break down the material being taught and write out the steps shows the teacher the students know what is being taught (Assessing Student Learning). If a child has trouble with this, then as a teacher you know they don't get the material. In my Human Developments book there is a man named Howard Gardner. He is a theorist who talks about people having multiple intelligences. He claims that we all have separate human capacities ranging from musical intelligence to the intelligence involved in understanding oneself (multiple intelligences). I looked up Gardner's multiple intelligences on my laptop and I came across a really good image that explains each of the intelligences. There are nine intelligences and they are: existential, verbal/linguistic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalist, bodily/kinesthetic, musical/rhythmic, visual/spatial, and logical/mathematical (Multiple intelligence image). I took the multiple intelligence assessment to see what the outcome would be for me and I wasn't shocked at all (Multiple intelligences--Assessment). The test said my strengths were kinesthetic, musical, and intrapersonal. On the results page it gave me some suggestions on how I could use these to help me academically. I believe Gardner's theories are very helpful when it comes to teaching students because this will help you notice who needs to learn certain ways in class.

If you teach the students the way they learn best, then this will help lay a good foundation for their knowledge of the material. For example, Billy is a spatial learner, but Sam is a musical learner. Billy would need pictures and Sam would need some type of music or sounds in the lesson. In order

to teach both students so they learn and understand the material a teacher could make a slide show with music and a lot of pictures talking about the material being taught. Another way the teacher can teach them both at the same time is to put on a good song explaining the material with great visuals. This way both students are learning, not just one.

When testing a child or assessing them you are looking to see if they understand the topic or not. An assessment doesn't always have to be a test. You can have an interview with the student, have the students give a presentation, role play, cloze exam, fill in the blank, writing samples, have the students make a portfolio, have the students take online quizzes, the students can take a multiple-choice exam, or even have a true or false quiz (top 10 ways to assess). These are only some ways you can assess your students. Since I want to teach second grade I feel more active assessing is better like presentations, role playing, and interviews. These would be better for younger students because younger students can't sit for too long or they don't stay engaged.

If students think the teacher believes in them, then they are more likely to be successful in the classroom. This means the teacher should be encouraging and understanding of the students. The more a teacher encourages positive work in the classroom, the more the students will want to do well. Pushing your students also shows them that you believe in them. It's good to teach with intensity as well because the more you push a student you want to have an appropriate level of intensity for that child while positively encouraging them. You don't want to push the students too hard because this could cause frustration and anxiety for your students. Teach with appropriateness.

Research told me that when you show your students you believe in them, you are showing how much you care about them (thoughtco.com). Making each child feel cared for, loved, and giving them attention they need will help them succeed in class. I believe this will cause them to get out of their comfort zone and step out of the box in order to stay engaged in the lesson. When a teacher shows that they care, it can leave a lasting impact on that child. They will remember you and what you did for them forever. This means you are making a positive impact on this child. You want to commit yourself to your students. I really love this statement I found while researching. "Once you become a teacher, you care, not just about education, but about your students' education."

As a teacher you are pushing your students and positively encouraging them so they can accomplish their goals. You don't just want to show you believe in the children inside of class. You want to show that you believe in them outside of class as well. This way you don't come off as a "fake teacher". You want to be real with your students, they are people just like you. Showing them that you believe in them could be them telling you their interests and you pushing them to be the best they can be at their interests. For example, if I went up to Billy in the classroom and asked him what he does for fun outside of school and he answers me saying that he likes to play soccer. A way I can show I care and believe in him is to show up to a game of his, support him in the sport that he loves, and also tell him I think he can score a goal maybe even two if he really wanted to. Of course, you'd have to do all of this in an appropriate manner, but I believe this is a good example of how you could show you believe in a student

outside of the classroom. I think of the phrase "believing is caring" whenever I think of this topic.

If the teacher is confident in teaching the material, then the students will be confident in learning the material. This means the more confident the teacher, the more confident the student. This will help with student achievement in the classroom. Confidence helps lay down a good foundation because once a student is confident they know the material, then it will stick with them.

My research told me that teachers are more confident when they are prepared. If you feel confident, act confident. This will eventually catch on to the students and they will respect your way of teaching, which then leads to their confidence (teaching with confidence). A professor once told me, "Even if you don't feel completely confident in what you're teaching, you should always fake it until you make it." I thought this was great advice because not every person is perfect. We as human beings aren't going to be confident with every little thing we have to teach or every curve ball that gets thrown our way and tips our lesson over so completely folds.

I agree with everything my research has told me. I especially agree with teacher preparedness. This is important to have because being prepared will help you a little more if you have to fake it until you make. I feel like if a teacher is just going in the classroom with an unprepared lesson plan, they aren't going to be very successful because they will lack confidence and their students will pick up on that.

The article, *Confidence in the Classroom*, gives you ten ways a new teacher, or more experienced teacher, can be more confident in the

educational environment. The ten ways are: to feel confident, act confident, examine why you want to teach, learn the characteristics associated with effective teaching, enter each class with specific educational goals and objectives, teach less better, use active learning strategies regularly, don't be a perfectionist, be relaxed about admitting it when you don't know something, ask for response from students and colleagues, and remember enthusiasm and energy can carry the day.

The tip that stood out to me the most would have to be teach less, better. I would have to agree with this. Once you become confident in teaching less better, then the students have more time to practice the material and get help from the teacher to gain confidence in their knowledge of the material being taught. If the students are confident and knowledgeable of the content, then the foundation has been successfully made.

Being confident in the content is important, but it is important to know what the students are confident in. Are they just confident in memorizing the information or are they confident in fully understanding the content? I feel like most teachers are worried about students doing well in their class and getting the right answers on their tests so they push memorization into the students' brains so they "know" the content quicker and the teacher can move on to another lesson. I disagree with this way of teaching. I feel like each student should fully understand each part of the content. They should know it enough to break it down to you and not mess up. When they can break down the information for you they are more confident in their knowledge of the content.

Collaborating with others around you will help you become a better teacher. This means, as a teacher, I will be more successful from getting help around me instead of sticking by myself and being ineffective in the educational environment. I believe that sticking to yourself and being ineffective means you are a blob, meaning you aren't using your resources wisely.

My research told me that teachers can learn a lot more when they realize professional development depends on effective teacher collaboration (Making the Most Out of Teacher Collaboration). I agree with this because other teachers around you can help you come up with ideas if you are stuck on something or can't figure out how to teach/deal with a certain child. Ways to communicate and collaborate with parents in the education atmosphere would be PTO, PTA, and Booster Clubs. These are parent-teacher organizations that give the teacher and the parent the possibility to interact outside the classroom. This way parent-teacher communication is fundamental to involve families in education processes (Parent-Teacher Communication).

Another way to communicate with parents is a parent communication log (Free Parent Communication Log). On this log the parent writes the student's name, and their information (cell number, home number, work number, email, and on the bottom the teacher can log when and why they communicated with this specific parent/guardian. A "parent" doesn't have to fill out the sheet, the legal guardian can fill the sheet out.

Another way of communicating with parents is conferences. This is when the teacher and parents meet to discuss their child's/student's academic career. Teachers can discuss with colleagues by having

meetings, going to workshops, or even as simple as talking something over at lunch. It is important for you as a teacher to get out of your comfort zone, step out of the box, and get your voice to be heard. All of these will help you become a better teacher in and out of the classroom. This will also improve your teaching skills by getting feedback from other teachers and this will help you be more successful with laying out the foundation of the students' knowledge.

Teachers assume responsibility for professional growth, performance, and involvement as an individual and as a member of a learning community (standards). Teachers understand and use varied assessments to inform instruction, evaluate, and ensure student learning (standards). Teachers need to believe in their students so they feel like they can be successful in school(standards). Teachers need to know the content they are teaching the students, this way the students feel confident they will learn the material (standards). Teachers collaborate with students, parents, other educators, administrators and community to support student learning (standards). My thesis of this paper was a student's educational foundation is important to their future success. I believe all these clues will help benefit the students in my classroom one day by setting a solid foundation in their knowledge. A student with a good foundation of content is most likely going to be very successful in school and carry them through college to get them a successful career. I want to be a part of helping a child learn and grow as they go on through schooling and grow up. Teachers are here to guide and provide for the students and their knowledge. We are supposed to feed their hungry brains with information that is going to stick with them throughout their learning careers. I want my students I teach one day to

fully understand the content instead of just memorizing it. Having an impact on the students you teach is one of the most important things I want to hit on when I'm a real teacher. I want to impact them in such a positive way that they come back and see me when they want to. I have a teacher who impacted my life like that. Her name is Mrs. Held. She was a good teacher and she taught me well and she knew how I learned best. She showed that she cared about me and believed in me by telling me how she thinks I'm going to do on a test or even talking about softball. After high school I came back to see her my freshman year of college and she was so excited to see me. She asked me how my life has been going and how college softball is going. Knowing that she cares enough to remember my interests and cares enough to get that excited to see me is a really great feeling, even after I have already graduated. This is what kind of teacher I want to be. This is the type of impact I want to have on my students. I truly believe the clues I picked for this paper will help a teacher be a great teacher. They just have to know how to do each one appropriately. Teaching is a form of art. You are sculpting these students to look like your ideal student. Not only are you sculpting them to look and act like the ideal student, you are also sculpting their brains by teaching them content they have to know for the future. By the time they graduate they should be beautiful sculptures that you and other teachers have helped create.

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