

## **Characteristics of Good Teachers, September 2008**

LEAD Conference: Annette Breaux, author of Seven Simple Secrets: What the Best Teachers Know and Do

- Good teachers will save more lives than surgeons.
- You have GOT to believe that all students are both reachable and teachable and that you can truly make a difference in their lives!
- One ineffective teacher takes *two years* for a student to recover the academic loss.

### **3 Levels of Teachers:**

#### 1. Non-teacher:

- Always reviews, never teaches
- Usually complains
- Rarely smiles
- Classroom management problems are always someone else's fault
- Displays an I don't care attitude
- Disrespectful to students and colleagues

#### 2. Capable Teacher

- Does well during an observation
- Lacks enthusiasm
- Negative
- Blame others
- Fairly good at classroom management (with the exception of an occasional outburst)

#### 3. Wow Teacher!

- Always Smiles
- Always Happy (or at least fake it well!)
- Doesn't care when an administrator comes to visit
- Loves students
- Doesn't gossip
- Willing to teach ALL students

### **Steps to becoming a Wow Teacher" and have a positive impact on student achievement!**

#### 1. Remember that you are a role model and that your actions speak louder than your words

- Receptive Communication is:
  - 7% Words
  - 38% Tonality
  - 55% Body Language
- Smile
- Enjoy learning

2. Become an excellent classroom manager
  - Don't let students push your buttons
  - Distinguish between procedures and rules (rules must have a consequence)
  - Students will need practice following procedures and modeling from teacher
  - Some procedures must be reviewed on a regular basis
  - Have very few rules (maximum of 5), but enforce consistently
3. Treat every child with dignity and respect; know how to defuse almost any situation
  - Greet all students every day
  - Assume the best for your students
  - Ask students who are having a bad day (in private) if they are all right?
  - Never enter into a power struggle
  - Privately discuss inappropriate behavior
  - Teachers are not victims of their jobs-you chose this profession!
4. Teach enthusiastically, even when you may not feel like it
  - Become an expert at "faking it"
  - Think of the Wal-Mart greeter who is paid to be happy
  - An airline pilot would never tell his passengers that he is having a bad day, or that landing was not really his best subject!
5. Relate all lessons to real life
  - When babies are learning to speak, we don't give them worksheets to improve their language development

### **What does an effective teacher's classroom look like?**

- There is little or no down time
- Procedures and routines are evident and consistent
- The teacher's rapport with students is evident
- The classroom is well organized
- The teacher is well prepared for each lesson
- The lessons relate to real life and are student-oriented
- Transitions are smooth
- The teacher moves around the room frequently
- Incorrect responses from students are dignified by the teacher
- The teacher models skills for students
- The students are actively involved in all lessons
- The atmosphere is comfortable and pleasant with lots of smiles and encouragement

### **A few tricks for avoiding discipline problems:**

- Use the "Are you all right?" technique
- Greet students daily with enthusiasm
- Maintain a calm, composed, professional demeanor at all times, regardless of students
- Avoid "negatives" whenever possible
- Keep students busy from bell to bell