ARE WE REALLY TEACHING WITH QUALITY?

by:
Neri DG. Mangalindan
Teacher III, Nagbalayong National High School

“A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.” - Brad Henry

What is the connection between teaching quality and student achievement? This question might be answered a lot of times. And the answers always tell that there is really a strong connection for this two.

There are researches on this topic that has clearly shown that quality teaching matters to student learning. Teacher quality has been consistently identified as the most important school-based factor in student achievement (McCaffrey, Lockwood, Koretz, & Hamilton, 2003; Rivkin, Hanushek, & Kain, 2000; Rowan, Correnti & Miller, 2002; Wright, Horn, & Sanders, 1997), and teacher effects on student learning have been found to be cumulative and long-lasting (Kain, 1998; McCaffrey et al., 2003; Mendro, Jordan, Gomez, Anderson, & Bembry, 1998; Rivers, 1999; Sanders & Rivers, 1996).

In a document prepared by Policy Studies Associates (PSA) last November 3, 2005, there are some important aspects that highlights the quality of teaching which is very important to student learning. These are:

• **Content knowledge:** Quality teachers must have a concrete background in the subject area they teach. There is a saying that you cannot share what you do not know and you cannot give what you do not have.

• **Teaching experience:** Teachers with longer range of teaching experience could produce higher student results. Some studies further suggest that the effect of inexperience can be a significant obstacle to student achievement.
• **Teacher training and credentials:** Teachers undergo trainings and seminars to further upgrade their selves and be more equipped as they practice their profession.

• **Overall academic ability:** Some researchers and philosophers believe that teachers with stronger academic skills perform better. Administrators could also assess the quality of teaching that his or her subordinates provides by monitoring, supervising and guiding them as they perform their task.

References:

www.facultyfocus.com*Defining Teaching Effectiveness

Hightower, Amy M., et.al., Improving Student Learning By Supporting Quality Teaching: Key Issues, Effective Strategies, December 2011.

www.brainyquote.com