BUILDING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS IN SCHOOL

by:
Elda E. Afable

School Principal I, BEPZ Elem. School

Since a school is an institution that is about working for people, with people and of people, then building and maintaining good and lasting relationships is a must. By having rapport or a harmonious relationship among the people within the school system, its success in every endeavor is ensured.

On the other hand, poor relationships in schools lead to conflicts, misunderstandings, miscommunications and disorders, which then lead to the school’s failures. And so to avoid these problems, it is necessary for a school head to become a good relationship-builder, not only with the teachers and the other school staff, but also with the pupils, with the parents and with the community.

To do such, here are some tips which can be very helpful in building good relationships:

With the teachers and other staff

- Call them by their names. Hearing one’s own name is a music to his ears.
- Always correct them in closed doors and praise them in the open. This boosts their morale.
- To make them feel important, welcome and consider their opinions, suggestions and options especially when making decisions.
- Have even small chats with them to know them better and deeper and to show your care and concern to them.
• Enjoy eating with different groups of people in the school and with everybody whenever possible.
• In order to lead them well, do your best to like every one even those who are not likeable at all.
• Always make your presence felt. Be approachable and don’t build walls. Make them feel they are welcome in your office always.
• Avoid being close to a particular person/group of persons only. This will create division.
• Spend time with them by having trips outside the school at least once a year.
• Be honest to them at all times. Honesty is the social glue that binds a school together.
• Be fair and provide opportunities for everybody to grow.
• Be a good role model to them. Do what you preach in order for them to believe you.

With the pupils and the parents

• Always have a ready smile for them but remember to be firm when imposing rules.
• Greet them back when they greet you.
• Make them feel they are welcome in your office for any of their concerns.
• Listen to their concerns. This will help in making plans and arriving at good decisions.
• Always be visible in school. Your presence matters a lot.

Finally, top all of these with kindness because it always pays to be kind. With these, surely, a leader can be assured of having a truly good relationship in school.
References:


Teacher Participation in Decision-Making - Its Relationship to Staff Morale and Student Achievement – by: Randal E. Jones