LOVE: THE REAL REASON TO TEACH

by

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True motivation comes from doing what one loves to do. It may come from many sources. People can be motivated by fear. They can also be motivated by money. Competition, can also motivate.

The love of teaching children is the purest form of motivation in education today. Leadership should recognize that quality in teachers and be wary of anything that destroys that desire.

Teaching used to be about children. It has become about proving ourselves. Competition against some standard has become more important than guiding children to adulthood. It once was enough that a child walked out of class feeling like they learned something. Today they have never learned enough.

When children play a game they never can win, they stop playing. Many teaching staffs today become apathetic and passive aggressive because they feel like they can never do enough. Constant pressure to “raise the bar” has led some educators to adopt a “bunker mentality”, hiding from administrative mandates. More and more is added to the plate with nothing ever being taken off. Good teachers know in their hearts that the most important focus of their job is to help student reach their potential that should be enough.

It used to be that the greatest goal of education was a happy student. Now it is a test score. We have become so focused on proving ourselves to people who don’t really matter to our kids that we have forgotten our kids who should really matter most.
As I wind down my career, I know it is not about the money. I know now it was not about competition or fear. It is the love of children that motivates for twenty-three years. I only hope educators in the future do not become so overburdened that they burn out on teaching before they achieve that same realization.