MOST COMMON CLASSROOM CHALLENGES

by:
Celia D. Tecson
Teacher II, Pablo Roman National High School

Teaching is not an easy task. Whether you’re a beginner, or an experienced one, every teacher faces similar issues and concerns in and out of the classroom. These are obstacles that prevent them from doing things they know are more helpful to students. The obstacles are often encountered by most teachers and can arise from many directions: with students, parents, administrators, and are experienced from day-to-day.

Here are some top issues faced by the teacher that kept coming up and over again. Although to some, teaching is enjoyable, that doesn’t mean it’s not a headache. Sometimes a teacher just needs to vent — and laugh it off with lots of self-encouragements and positivity.

1. Lack of teamwork, empathy, and support between students

With a much stronger focus on every student’s performance, many teachers feel that teamwork is not that important in a classroom. If students spend most of their time working alone and not in groups, they don’t get the opportunity to improve their social and teamwork skills. These are especially important especially to high school students.

2. Teachers working too many roles at the same time

Teachers play too many roles inside the classroom. They sometimes become counselors, Social worker, psych educator, actors, and even doctors. In order to help their precious students, they feel they need to adopt these roles themselves even though they don’t have the proper trainings. They still do it, and are willing to do it, because they care.
3. No time to deal with bodily functions

During their entire day, teachers must jump from one task to the another, and are often forced to neglect their own body needs and necessities. They do not have time for themselves-no bathroom or water breaks and sometimes they don’t have a lunch break at all..

4. Not enough time to plan

Teachers are often deprived of the time they supposed to enjoy. They don’t have enough time to prepare, plan and execute all the tasks that are demanded and expected of them. As a result the materials that they prepare require a lot of improvements. If they will just be given enough time, they will become more productive. To update content presentations and documents, to correct older material, and to adapt the subjects to a new cohort of students are some of the tasks that teachers would like more time for.

5. Excessive paperwork

Most school and district administrations ask that teachers compile large amounts of data, such as grades and student performances. Teachers have difficulty with these because of the additional time it will be required of them, and the fact that it takes precious time away from preparing quality content for their students.

6. Keeping up with the expectations of school admins

Most teachers feel that more and more are expected of them from their administration. These include constant support to all students, open communication with parents, a more personalized help to students who need more attention to succeed, and a lot more. While teachers do want to provide the best support for their students, they don’t receive enough paid time to do so. To access to specialized personnel and additional allotted time outside of class are some of the suggested ways to improve support and meet those increasing expectations.
7. Applying a prescribed curriculum to all types of students

All teachers will agree that every student is different. They do learn at different speeds, and they have their own way of understanding and remembering lessons. Problems may arise when teachers are expected to apply a fixed curriculum to students with different needs. Adapting lessons to students and tailoring content to their needs takes a lot of time, which is in short supply.

If we distill these challenges to the major areas of school life that cause teachers the most difficulty, a common theme emerges: Teachers want better ways to communicate with students and parents, and to them with help with classroom management and help them find resources that will save them time in tailoring content for their students.

Everybody in the learning system must all understand that there are challenges in the classroom that each and every teacher is struggling about. In prioritizing the welfare of the students, they, the higher ups must also pay attention to the struggles of these teachers inside their classrooms.

References: