MOTIVATION

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“MOTIVATION” what does this word really mean? Is it part of a lesson plan? Or part of every activity in a lesson plan? Or should I say must be part of every learner in school? Motivation is described as a state that energizes, directs and sustains behavior. Teaching without this is like getting ready for failure. To be able to achieve the best possible learning a pupil could get, getting his attention and interest should be our first target to accomplish. Directing every pupil’s attention to what he should be learning and focusing to what needs to be discovered, learn and master a particular activity, lesson and/or task. The best way to do this is to make them aware why they are going to school from Monday to Friday for more or less 7 to 8 hours a day.

As a teacher for 24 years now, I want to share you a technique of motivating the learners at the beginning of school year. Though I lost that piece of article, forgot her name and her school, I remember her strategy, and was helped by her ideas. I’ve been doing this since 1995 when I was a multi-grade teacher of grade 5 and 6 pupils in Bliss Elementary up to now. I luckily got the idea from a black American teacher who wrote about the worst school she had been assigned to in 1969. With the help of google I luckily found another school, “Dailard Elementary School” in San Carlos San Diego where similar oath is recited, too.

On the first day of school, we have our pupils’ orientation. This is when we introduce to our pupils our self as their new adviser, their new room and new classmates. In line with it, we also discuss the RULES and REGULATIONS they have to obey. But before the
clarification of the RULES, we have to make it appoint that they first have to recite an oath, which I call ‘THE PUPILS’ OATH’.

On their first day in our room, they must know why they are there, what are their purposes, and what are the things they should do to be able to get what they want. If those were discussed already, then we can have them read ‘THE PUPILS’ OATH’. This oath is recited by them after every opening prayer in the morning from Monday ‘til Friday.

“I come to school to learn.

And I will learn.

I will have a good day.

I will act in such a way,

That I will be proud of myself;

And others will be proud of me too.”

‘THE PUPILS’ OATH” or the pupils’ promise that they will be doing their best in school to be able to learn and be admired by everyone is such a great motive that will keep them motivated for the whole school year. Is it not a nice way of motivating our pupils?

References:


https://www.sandiegounified.org/schools/dailard/our-school