QUALITIES OF A GOOD GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

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A guidance counselor of a school must possess certain traits and characteristics in order to become successful in counseling. It is very important that he/she must be empathetic and kind towards dealing any behavior of a pupil. She must have sense of humor, stability, patience, broadmindedness, pleasantness, sincerity and friendliness. She must be competent and understands fully well her role as a guidance counselor.

Being a School Counselor is a difficult work. They have often little time to tend hundreds of pupils but the impact makes them great.

Tera Tuten (2014) enumerated the following traits every school counselor should have:

1. Be a good listener. Listening is an important characteristic for every Counselor. She must know when to listen and what to listen. If clarification is needed, she must speak up but be sure to add details thus letting the student know that she hears what they say.

2. Be able to assess. As a counselor, she should make accurate assessments of students to prepare them for life beyond school. Every Counselor should know the strength and weakness of the students to guide them in choosing what path they should be inclined with.

3. Be an excellent communicator. A Counselor should possess an excellent communication skill. She should be able to communicate ideas, thoughts and feelings.

4. Appreciate diversity. As a counselor, she should know that students come from all walks of life and all types of families and helping students learn to accept and
embrace their own diversity in a school setting is a critical job. A Guidance Counselor should understand that students come from different backgrounds so, she must be able to accept and embrace diversity of each student.

5. Be friendly. She should be warm and approachable to all regardless of age, gender, religion and ethnicity. Being open and gregarious will make students open up and let go of their burdens to her. They will treat her as friends to confide with.

6. Be authoritative. A guidance counselor must cross the boundary from friend to professional if the situation requires. A counselor should know when to show authority and takes the proper steps to ensure the student’s safety.

7. Be well-rounded. She should have a wide range of interests outside of work because she will never know when one of these interests will resonate with a student and prompt a connection that will result to students being open to her.

8. Be able to coordinate. Counselor serves as coordinator also for different school programs and activities that will enhance pupils’ potentials. She must be able to handle a number of tasks at a time.

9. Have good evaluation skills. She spends a lot of time evaluating test scores or administering tests to students. She must be able to evaluate and translate these results to discuss student’s academic performance or to aid a professor in making an accurate assessment of student’s skill.

10. Have a sense of humor. Having a sense of humor will enable a school counselor in gaining student’s trust. Be able to laugh at herself and offer amusing anecdotes for what she had experienced in life will enable students to realize that she is also human. Be able to see things with a side of laughter will go a long way towards making her days brighter.

Being a Guidance Counselor is not an easy task. He steers learners on the road to academic success by evaluating and implementing a plan to their needs. But possessing these characteristics, an assigned Guidance Counselor can make a great difference in the lives of the learners.
References:

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