SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS: REMINDERS OF THE PAST, EDUCATORS FOR TOMORROW

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What do social studies teachers teach? This question has always been asked about the nature of education a social studies teacher may teach. In fact, when heard of social studies, many would identify it with the past events, the dates and personalities that became part of the histories. These impressions about social studies build negative reactions against the subject and the social studies teachers as well. They find the subject boring and irrelevant. They also treated the teachers the same way.

Years ago, social studies classes used to focus and emphasized on memorizing the dates, names and historical events. But as for the educational philosophy and guiding principle of social studies teachers, teachers do not only teach the dates or the past people and events. They are the reminders of these significant facts and events. These are very important to be inculcated in the mind of every student for them to determine and realize how these became significant on earlier times. With that, the teachers are working hard to change the idea that the content knowledge and skills are used and taught to prepare the students for the future. These data and events gathered from the past are the strong foundations of building and molding tomorrow or the future.

Educating for tomorrow or the future allows us educators to reflect on our educational status and profession and also the experiences that the students are having. It also emphasizes how the students explore and understand the past events and how these data continue to affect the modernized world of today, and how will they be able to use these facts to shape the future. To teach for tomorrow, a social studies teacher must address modernization and use variety of practices that includes a wide range or
combination of knowledge and skills which will focus on the future of the students. To teach for the future, a teacher must provide appropriate instructional devices, resources, materials and technology to help students explore and even construct their own skills through guidance and support of a social studies teacher.

Teaching for tomorrow also includes the social issues. These social issues and current events will be beneficial to the students because these may help them to have critical and open minds to accept new ideas, concepts and cultures. It is a duty of a social studies teacher to educate the learners on how to engage themselves in communicating and understanding the complexity of modernized society. Students must learn what is happening around them and know how to incorporate themselves globally. To be able to this, students must pay attention to the knowledge concerning the dates, names and events for these are significant factors on treating the social issues and current events.

A social studies teacher who teaches for tomorrow is more of a facilitator and let the students learn for themselves. Student-centered activities must be prepared and organized to help the students discover the abilities and potentials they have. Collaborative learning is also established so that learning will become meaningful through cooperation and collaboration with other students.

Social studies teachers do not only teach the facts, but these facts were used to be able the students to realize the significant part of these facts on building and molding the future. Social studies teachers teach for the betterment of students. The betterment of the students leads to the betterment and improvement of the future. For as we all now, our future relies on these young individuals who, as always been said the “Hope of our Future.”
References:

https://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/academics/teacher-ed/social-studies.html