TEACHER, BE THE CHEERLEADER!

by:
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Teacher, have you ever encountered a student who refuses to speak or perform in front of the class? Have you ever experienced checking students’ papers that end up with a headache? Have you ever felt that the youth are no longer the hope of tomorrow? You sure did. But what did you do after? Did you sigh with dismay? Did you say your favorite ‘inis’ line? Or, did you encourage and assure them that they’ll be okay?

An 8 year career as a teacher in a public high school requires all the immense effort. It takes one to really know how enormous that effort should be especially in dealing with varied personalities inside the room with different learning preferences, and different intelligences. With so many responsibilities laid on our shoulders, we can’t help but feel irate at times. Work does not end in the four corners of the room. In fact, teachers bring work even at home or, in my case, even in my dreams so teaching concepts to students is the only thing to do. Teacher manages tasks from maintaining the cleanliness of the premises, and decorating classrooms, to planning lessons, preparing instructional materials, recording scores, computing grades, keeping the discipline of students, communicating with parents, visiting homes of students-at-risk, stressing on all kinds of reports, and trying to beat deadlines.

However, teachers took an oath and swore to serve the public regardless of the thought that teaching is very challenging or for some female ‘single’ teachers, they might not be married and that no one gets rich in this profession. Having this oath in our heart and mind, let us make sure to deliver good content and motivating them that learning is enjoyable and beneficial.
Focusing on the good will make things possible. Become an observer, a helper, and a cheerleader especially to difficult students.

Students, especially those who are struggling in academics, might be good in other areas. It could be sports, singing, dancing or role-playing. Observing students with the strengths they possess will give the teacher an idea on how to provide better learning opportunities that will catch their attention and boost their morale.

After discovering the strengths of the students, teachers can help by directing the students to a finding their purpose. Through this, students will start to become accountable to their own learning and develop autonomy.

Lastly, instead of being a critic, teachers must try to become cheerleaders instead. There will be a lot of time that students will fail and stumble. If we will try to motivate them and make them realize what they could possibly miss when they just give up then we will be successful in focusing on the good – the good side of our struggling students.

References: