TEACHERS MUST EARN RESPECT

by:

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One of the most common questions I often get asked especially by the newly-hired teachers is, “Why are most students disrespectful?” Many educators now a days complain that many students misbehave with little regard for the teacher and/or his or her classmates. My first answer to this question is, “What can you do to earn their respect?”

The truth is...times have changed. Today, in a society where good morals are on the decline, we can’t afford to educate students like our teachers once did “back in the day.”

I think one of the best ways to earn a student’s respect in the classroom is by being a person your students want you to be. Put another way, if your students don’t want “to become” you, then you don’t need “to be” there. We’re talking about integrity. Whenever we promote success to the students without first modeling it, then we’re seen as hypocrites in their eyes, even if they don’t admit it. In addition, we lose credibility in the classroom.

Character is something that money can’t buy but everyone admires and respect—even if they don’t like you personally. First impression lasts. Respect begets respect.
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