UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF OUR STUDENTS

by:

Marvin E. Orcena
Bataan School of Fisheries

I have read a quotation which says that a good teacher explains, a superior teacher demonstrates and, a great teacher inspires. Students like and describe their teachers differently. They appreciate very much the kindness, understanding, accommodating, caring, fairness, good disciplinarian, and the many good qualities of their teachers. Teachers, on the other hand, have also different descriptions on their students: attentive, honest, responsible, kind, intelligent, friendly, behave and many other good adjectives but there are also some negative descriptions about them especially with regard to their unacceptable behaviours inside the classroom. DepEd describes effective teacher as the one who motivates and engages students in learning rather than accepting that some students cannot be engaged and are destined to do poorly. Faculty Focus article defines "Great teacher” as warm, accessible, enthusiastic and caring, possesses good listening skills, and takes some time out of their busy schedules for anyone who needs them. For us Teachers to claim that we are good, effective, great or superior, do we really know our students? Are you considerate enough to their shortcomings? Here are some tips to fully understand our students.

Knowing them personally – Have a short talk to them individually to know important things about his parents, childhood, daily activities, favorite leisure or pastime, relationship with parents, friends, siblings, problems encountered and many more. Knowing important things about them can help the teacher adjust to his moods, help them not be stressed in the problems they encountered, coordinate with the subject teachers for the subjects they have experienced difficulties, talk to their parents and other supports that a teacher could give to their students to help them.
Appreciating and loving students whatever qualities they have - We are aware that no two persons are the same or alike even identical twins. Each of us has different likes, dislikes, point of views, and behaviors. Teachers should always respect individual differences that should not insist things not acceptable to them. To be fair and respect them most of the time always give them chance to suggest, give their opinions not being criticized nor rejected. Nowadays that DepEd is educating students about gender equality and differences, teachers need to support whatever sexual preferences of their students have.

Teachers have different expectations to their students. If their expectations are not satisfied and met, there are tendencies that they couldn’t appreciate students anymore. They are closer to the students who satisfied all their expectations and treat students unfairly with regard to giving grades and in selecting students who will join contest and School activities in the school. Other students are deprived of their chance to experience and show up their talents in the different activities in all the subject areas. To avoid being bias and unfair, selection must be open to anyone regardless of gender, status in life, and section where the students belong. Anyway, there are criteria to be used as guidelines. Why not invite anyone who are interested to join? If they were eliminated, they will not have an ill feeling that they were not invited to join.

Understanding Students Shortcomings – Students are always committing mistakes: cheating, having unusual and unacceptable behavior, not obeying school rules and regulations and many other mistakes that they are unaware of. For us teachers to properly guide our students properly and expect them to follow and obey the rules of conduct, explain to them all the existing rules in the school, School Rules and Regulations, CPP and Bullying policies. Have an orientation for the parents and students before the opening of classes to explain all the policies that they need to follow. Furnish them a copy that the parents and students could read and have all that policies posted in one corner of the classroom visible for all of them to read. Make them aware that there are existing
school policies to be observed and followed. Failure of the teachers and school administrators to educate parents and students regarding schools policies will mean disobedience on the part of the students. For us to expect compliance of the students, we need to educate them first on what they should do.

Recognizing Students Good Deeds - Most of us are happy being recognized for the good things that we have done for others. Students also like to be recognized and be appreciated. It is so easy to value and appreciate students’ good deeds by just saying “thank you” whenever they offer help or give us something. When they greet us, or when there are occasions like VALENTINE’S DAY, and CHRISTMAS that they send messages through text, give cards and gifts, We can appreciate all their effort by saying thank you and also greet them to say in return. We can also say other words of appreciation like congratulations if they win in contests, or send birthday greetings, have their name posted on a bulletin board or a tarpaulin with good remarks for a much bigger achievement.

Understanding the nature of students can help teachers to fully appreciate them whatever attitudes and traits they possess. Teachers can easily think of best ways of helping them with their problems. They can apply positive ways in disciplining them that they may feel that they are appreciated and loved.

References:

Understand Your Child’s Nature (and Preserve Your Sanity)

https://www.simplestructuredmama.com

Parenting: Understanding Your Child’s Nature- Good Theraphy

https://www.goodtheraphy.org
Nature AND Nurture: Understanding Your Child’s Temperament

www.urbanchildinstitute.org

Student’s expectations

https://www.chronicle.com

Teacher expectations and students achievement

https://www.ernweb.com