WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A GOOD SCHOOL LEADER

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A good leader may be defined in different ways and perspective. It is not measured by how much achievements and accomplishments you have because it is expected from you as a leader. But rather a good leader may be defined by your relationship with others and how you treat others.

In the field of teaching, the school principals serve as the face and head of the school. They were considered as the manager of the school organization. Being a school leader is one of the most challenging yet rewarding roles in the academe. It requires strong personality, skills and characteristics that will help them manage the school well. If you are wondering what it takes to become a good school leader, here are some things you need to consider.

A good school leader:

1. Provides Support - this is one of the most essential characteristics a good school leader should possess. Teachers in every school need to feel supported in every way. They need to believe that they have your back in every situation they get into. School leader must stand to be their number one supporter in every program and activities the teacher is planning to for the betterment of their pupils. They should feel that when they have an issue regarding their pupils and parents, they will get the help and support they need from you.

2. Highly Visible - a good school leader must be seen in every corner of the school and not only inside their office. They must be out of their comfort zone interacting with pupils and teachers, participating and attending different school programs.
Their presence must be felt by the different stakeholders in school so that they would also feel comfortable approaching and interacting with them.

3. Effective Listener - a good school leader must spend time listening to others. They need to practice active listening skills that would surely of great help to run the organization. A good school leader must hear what is being said to them before coming up with their response to the situation.

4. Problem Solver - the core of the principal’s job is to solve problems. In some cases, new principals are brought into a school because of the tough issues they were facing like school’s test low scores, financial issues due to poor leadership and a high number of discipline issues. The new established school principals will be asked to help challenging situations. They need to show their problem-solving skills and approach challenges with great confidence. They need to find ways on how they would implement good ideas and provide different solutions to solve the issues at hand.

5. Empowers Others - a good school leader should give their teachers a sense of empowerment just like a good CEO of a company. They should provide opportunity to empower their teachers in facing different issues and problems inside the school. A good school leader must be open and responsive to any suggestions for school improvement.

6. Has a Clear Vision - the school principal is considered as the school leader. They have the full responsibility of everything that goes inside the school. Their vision
must be loud and clear. They should have a clear vision for improving the school and how to make it stand out among others in the future.

7. Fair and Consistent- just like an effective teacher inside the classroom, a good school leader must always be fair and consistent. Teachers must be treated fairly without bias. Everyone must be given just and fair judgement. A good school leader must listen on both sides and facts. They must not involve their personal emotions or loyalties in deciding in some matters.

8. Discreet- a good school leader must deal with sensitive issues in a discreet manner. When disciplinary issues with staff arises, they should handle it with utmost care and concern. Issues must be corrected in private, not in public and keep personal issues off to any social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

9. Dedicated- a good school leader must be dedicated to the school and have the belief that all decisions must be made for the best interest of every individual. Aside from always being visible, it must be obvious to everyone that the school leader loves the school and has the best interest at heart. They should normally be first to arrive in school and the last to leave the premise. This kind of gesture can be difficult to maintain but it pays high impact to staff, pupils and society at large.

Being a good school leader is a chance to influence and leave a great impact to the lives of many people in the community. They represent the entire school and inspire other people to become the best version of themselves. In order to become one, it takes time, passion, dedication and a big heart to inspire others to dream more, become more, learn more and do more.

References:

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