

11 Ways to Be a Great Teacher

Amman-Tla Ali / Jordan
Majida Naser Kawar

Abed, S.S (2007) Jeeran Halawani University Press: Egypt.
Gibbons, M. (2008) teaching SDL. Personal Power Press International: London.
Wesley, D.C (1998) "Eleven ways to be a great teacher" Educational leadership. Feb.

Don Wesley's Top 11 Non-Traditional Expectations of Teachers.

- 1** Empathize. If you are not and never have been a student, a parent, an administrator, or the teacher next door, can you imagine what it must be like? Can you see yourself as the other? This is the beginning of understanding.
- 2** Create partnerships with families, administrators and other teachers. It will not be easy. Partnerships of this kind could encounter resistance. They must be forged. Some body has to keep trying. Decide that it will be you.
- 3** Be accountable to others. Organize yourself. Be able to explain. Keep precise records. Know when things happened or did not happen. Let the records show that you did your part; at least you tried. Do not get caught not knowing facts, dates, times and numbers. Be convincing and thorough.
- 4** Embrace adversity. Conflict, contention, failure and fear are the experiences that teach us. To deal with adversity in others while maintaining respect and concern for them is an accomplishment.
- 5** Practice the long view. Consider the strategic consequences of your tactical decisions today. Your students will become the adults of tomorrow.
- 6** Demonstrate competency and interest not only in your subject area but in others areas as well. Help students become competent and interested.
- 7** Never quit. Keep believing in your students even when they are failing, disrupting or being suspended. Believe in them when they do not believe in themselves. Draw the line. Do what you need to do, but be ready when your lesson finally takes hold as they begin to believe.
- 8** Accept responsibility for doing the job to the best of your ability every day.
- 9** Reflect and contribute to reflection. Read, think and write. Communicate your questions and ideas. Share with colleagues and publish your work.
- 10** Admit mistakes and fix them as soon as possible. Do not wait until tomorrow. It solidifies credibility. It keeps you humble. It leads by example.
- 11** Wait patiently, expectantly, and intensely for your work to have an effect, for your students to succeed, for your reputation to grow, for your skills to sharpen and for your alumni to choose to visit you and witness to the result of your work.