

My Ideal School

By Sharonda Phelps

When they graduate from my school, students will be able to pursue higher education, the military, or enter the workforce appropriate to their individual career goals. I believe we must address the education of the “whole” child. Some students may learn at different levels than their classmates, but each of them will eventually develop the skills to enter society as a contributing individual. I want students to realize their dreams and to assure them that THEY CAN do well and accomplish whatever they desire.

The administration at my school will be seen, literally and figuratively, in the school and in the community. Offices would be “open door” when not conducting professional business/meetings. I want to be a catalyst for positive change. As an administrator, I will attempt to handle situations fairly and consistently. To me, an administrator’s role is that of a facilitator; encouraging faculty, staff, and students to strive for their personal best in all they do.

My colleagues will be acknowledged and respected as team players for site-based decision-making. ALL employees will be encouraged to instill pride and ownership into what they do for the school community (aides, agency resource staff, bus drivers, cooks, custodians, nurses, secretaries, teachers, and any other community resources) and to be positive models for the students.

The primary role of teachers will be to make a positive impact academically, socially, and morally for every student by helping them to aspire to their full potential. Teachers should devise, reflect, and adjust their teaching strategies to meet the needs and make lessons relevant to our students. Students need to practice, engage, and prepare for future interactions within the global community.

The most important criterion for measuring our success will be that all students are near, at, or above proficiency. I have a difficult time insisting this to be the most “important criterion”, but I must. After all, we are in the business to educate our children to succeed in a technological-global market, thus we must strive to attain the highest academic standards in order for them to be competitive in that market.

The school will be recognized in the community as a partner working toward the betterment of its children and the future of the community itself. An effective school needs to have frequent, open, two-way communication among its constituents in order to ascertain that needs are being met for its students. I have built positive relationships by involving community members as guest speakers in my current classroom; my students have participated in service-learning activities, and my students have real-world art experiences by creating many different types of projects for individuals, businesses, and organizations. Such activities provide the students an opportunity to be contributing members of their present community and will lead them to involvement as community leaders in the future.