

Be All You Can Be (and let the rest go)

“In education, as in life, the achievement of excellence requires recognizing those things which are within our control, and controlling those things, while acknowledging those things which are beyond our control, and accepting our powerlessness.”

Be All You Can Be...

The Three P's of Empowerment: Preparation, Promptness, and Perserverance

Preparation:

Time guidelines for preparation:

Minute for minute

Hour for the day

Hour for the week

Lesson planning:

Essential questions vs. goal statements

Objectives planning vs. temporal planning

The anticipation of problems:

Planning for three “what ifs”

Planning for behavior problems

Promptness:

Estimation of time as a critical skill

Demonstration

Consequences of poor estimation

The morning “fifteen”

Period beginnings

Period endings

Perserverance:

Reteaching and “the expectation of forgetting”

Teaching disasters and “the expectation of incompetence”

Fatigue and “the expectation of exhaustion”

And let the rest go...

The Tyranny of Testing:

Two trains, one track: accommodation and accountability

Test scores, parenting, and home environments

Teaching to the test, fudging, and cheating

Be All You Can Be...

The Three C's of Competence: Creativity, Collaboration, and Communication

Creativity in teaching:

Use of creativity indices

Simple tools and creative applications

Creativity and the fear of failure

Collaboration:

Real mentoring and assigned mentoring

Inclusion and children who ought to be in special education

Watch, listen, and learn

Communication:

Student expectations:

Statement and explanation
Constant reference

Student performance:

Elementary – adult-based
MS/HS – student-based
Emphasis on improvement

Communication with parents:

Elementary – The 10% rule
MS/HS – The 5% rule
The correct tones: praise, concern, and support
The wrong tones: defensiveness, accusation, and hostility

And let the rest go...

The Mythology of Mission Statements:

All children can learn...

No child left behind...

Be All You Can Be...

The Three T's of Master Teachers: Transitions, Technology, and Tolerance

Mastery of transitions:

Stand, supervise, survey.

Don't engage in abrupt transitions – they always increase behavior problems.

Don't increase or add information once the transition has begun – it will always be ignored or forgotten.

Don't raise your voice.

Mastery of technology:

Test, try, practice: the rules of technology use

Create while students watch: the perils of PowerPoint

Do not substitute technology for instruction

Mastery of tolerance and intolerance

Tolerate the impulsive and the silly

Be intolerant of anger and hurtfulness

For yourself: be tolerant of mistakes, but intolerant of mediocrity or laziness

And the rest go...

The Burden of Bureaucracy

The supremacy of process over solution

Documentation and duplication

Meaningless meetings